DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

ED notice to Kerala CM over masala bonds sparks row

Yet another instance of the Centre misusing agencies, alleges CPM

Page 7

HC's conditional nod for postings under higher SC/ST quota

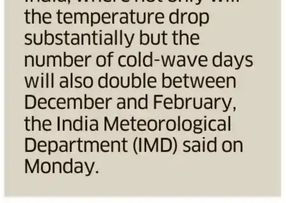
Modifies interim order restraining govt from acting on amended law

After the amended law of 2022

- Quota for SCs increases from **15% to 17%**
- Quota for STs increases from **3% to 7%**
- OBC quota remains **32%**

Conditions set by high court

- State will be allowed to continue the process already begun
- Appointments/promotions subject to outcome of petitions
- No further notifications based on amended law



AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has conditionally allowed the state government to continue the recruitment/promotion process already initiated under the amended legislation of 2022 that enhanced the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha passed the order while modifying an earlier interim order restraining recruitment/promotion under the enhanced quota.

"Considering that the recruitment process has already begun under the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Education Institutions and Appointments of Posts and Services under the State) Act, 2022, we consider it appropriate to modify our order dated November 19 to direct that no further notifications for recruitment or appointment on the basis of increased reservation would be issued till the disposal of the present petitions. The recruitment pursuant to the process that has already begun may be continued. However, any appointment made shall be subject to the final outcome of the petitions," it ruled.

The court said that all appointment/promotion letters would expressly indicate that the appointments/promotions are subject to the outcome of the pleas, and the candidates would not claim any equities if the increased reservation is struck down.

▸ Quota, Page 6

Tells states to accord assent, issues notice to RBI

SC asks CBI to probe digital arrest cases

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the CBI to carry out a unified pan-India probe into digital arrest scam cases and asked the RBI as to why it was not using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to find out and freeze bank accounts used by cyber criminals.

Digital arrest is a growing form of cybercrime in which fraudsters pose as law enforcement, court officials or personnel from government agencies to intimidate victims through audio and video calls. They hold the victims hostage and put pressure on them to pay money.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked the states, including Opposition-ruled West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana, to accord consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act for probing digital arrest cases in their jurisdiction.

It issued notice to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and sought its response as to why AI or machine learning technology was not employed to identify mule accounts and freeze those which are used in cyber fraud cases.

The top court, which passed the directions in a suo motu case registered on the complaint of an elderly couple from Haryana, noted that mostly senior citizens were targeted and their hard-earned money was extorted by the cyber criminals.

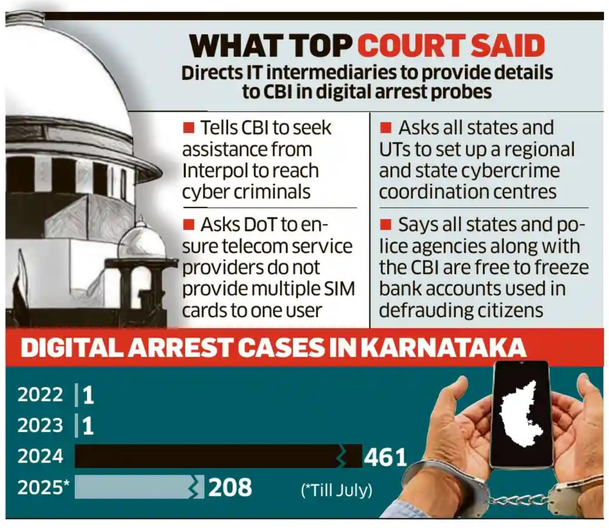
"The gravity and enormity of crimes can very well be judged by the fact that senior citizens were mostly targeted by the fraudsters by adopting different devices to dupe them," the bench said.

It directed information technology (IT) intermediaries to provide details and cooperation to the CBI in probes related to digital arrest cases.

The bench also directed the CBI to seek assistance from Interpol to reach cyber criminals operating from offshore tax haven countries.

It asked the Department of Telecom to ensure that telecom service providers do not provide multiple SIM cards to one user or entity, which may be used in cyber crimes.

▸ Digital arrest, Page 6


WHAT TOP COURT SAID
Directs IT intermediaries to provide details to CBI in digital arrest probes
Tells CBI to seek assistance from Interpol to reach cyber criminals
Asks all states and UTs to set up a regional and state cybercrime coordination centres
Asks DoT to ensure telecom service providers do not provide multiple SIM cards to one user
Says all states and police agencies along with the CBI are free to freeze bank accounts used in defrauding citizens
DIGITAL ARREST CASES IN KARNATAKA
2022 1
2023 1
2024 461
2025* 208
(*Till July)

The DoT order

- Phone makers should preload all new devices with state-owned Sanchar Saathi app that cannot be deleted
- The Nov 28 order gives major smartphone firms 90 days to ensure the app is pre-installed
- For devices already in the supply chain, manufacturers should push the app to phones via software updates

Govt cyber safety app must on phones

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU, DHNS & REUTERS

The Department of Telecom (DoT) has ordered smartphone manufacturers to mandatorily pre-install a government-run cybersecurity app on all new devices, a move that might raise the hackles of privacy advocates and tech giant Apple.

According to the direction issued by the DoT on November 28, smartphone makers have to install the Sanchar Saathi app in handsets with users having no option to delete or disable it.

This directive gives smartphone makers 90 days' time to ensure the app is installed on new mobile phones that will be manufactured in India or imported.

For devices that have already been manufactured and are in sales channels in India, manufacturers and importers of mobile handsets will be required to push the app through software updates, according to the DoT order.

▸ Sanchar Saathi, Page 6

What is Sanchar Saathi?

Sanchar Saathi app allows users to report suspicious calls/messages, verify IMEIs and block stolen devices through a central registry. Users can also check all the mobile numbers registered in their name using the app and even report any illegal connections. The government says it helps prevent cyber threats.

SIR: Govt says ready to discuss, but no timeline

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The government on Monday told the Opposition that it is ready to discuss issues related to electoral reforms during Parliament's Winter Session but refused to commit to a timeline.

The I.N.D.I.A parties have vowed to stick to their demand for an immediate discussion on the SIR. They, however, expressed willingness to be flexible by omitting SIR from the title of the discussion.

Details on Page 10

K'taka unveils new digital stamp paper to curb fraud

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government on Monday announced the rollout of digital stamp papers that citizens can purchase online without having to visit vendors, a reform Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said can curb frauds.

Stamp papers are used to carry out various transactions — sale of properties, rental agreements, affidavits and so on.

After the multi-crore Telgi scam, the government had switched from physical stamp papers to computer-generated e-stamp papers. But even this led to another scam with one e-stamp paper being duplicated for multiple use, resulting in a loss of revenue to the government.

> "Now, citizens can sit at home and purchase digital stamp papers on our Kaveri portal without having to depend on middlemen. This is a step towards empowering citizens
>
> **KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA**
> Revenue Minister

▸ e-stamp, Page 6

FIGHTING WASTE P 2

Determined to end garbage mess: DKS

Deputy CM D K Shivakumar on Monday said he was determined to put an end to the garbage problem in Bengaluru. Speaking after laying the stone for an integrated waste management unit, he noted that the new garbage tender with 33 packages would soon be finalised and implemented. "The garbage contractors' mafia has been opposing it," he said.

COLD WAVE P 7

Chilly days ahead for north Karnataka

Chilly winter is ahead for almost the entire Central India, stretching up to north-interior Karnataka and parts of northwest India, where not only will the temperature drop substantially but the number of cold-wave days will also double between December and February, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

BDA Homes

Built on Trust
Priced with Care

Trust. Value. Quality.

Step into thoughtfully planned communities that blend affordability with quality.
Every home is built on foundation of trust, transparency, and craftsmanship.

BDA Flat Mela

For spot booking of villas and flats

December 6
Kaniminike

December 7
Hunnigere

Consumers can purchase flats available at all BDA Projects.
On spot loan facility is available from banks.

Hunnigere
Kommaghatta
Kanminike

Upcoming Project
BDA Electronic City High-Rise
Electronic City Phase -1

Shri N.A. Haris
MLA, Shantinagar Constituency
& Chairman, BDA

For more information: **www.housing.bdabangalore.in** | **www.bda.karnataka.gov.in**
24/7 helpline number: **948 316 6622**

Kommaghatta: **636 251 2234/962 024 3018**
Kaniminike: **874 787 7469/779 586 9883** | Hunnigere: **988 653 5921**

Bangalore Development Authority
T.Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West,
Bengaluru - 560 020

scan the QR code for more information

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

New Episode: Nandikeshwara Prasadita Yakshagana Mandali; Chamundeshwari Playground, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar; 6 pm.

CULTURAL

Hanuma Jayanti Mahotsav: Abhishekam at 6 am, Navneet Alankara, music and dance performance at Indian Music and Dance Artists' Association; Hanuma Sene, Dari Anjaneyaswamy Charitable Trust, Yeshwantpur; 5.30 pm.

Ranga Sambhrama: Inauguration by Srinivas Mestru; KV Nagarajamurthy, Veena Sharma Bhusanuramath, J Lokesh and Bangarappa Kudanapur participate; 'Natadharma', directed by Ganesh Mandarthi, to be staged; Organiser: Nataka Bangalore; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 6 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Hanuma Jayanti: Abhishekam, Mahamangalarati: Kote Sri Anjaneyaswamy Temple, KR Road; 7.30 am.

Hanuma Jayanti, special puja to Yelahanka Bagilu Anjaneyaswamy: Dinesh Gundu Rao and Ramalinga Reddy to be present; Akhila Karnataka Kannada Kanmani Dr Raj Cultural Institute; Mysore Bank Circle, KG Road; 12 pm.

BWSSB to adopt solar power for Cauvery Stage VI pumps

Utility eyes cheaper power as project enters new phase

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will set up solar-powered pumping stations under the Cauvery Stage VI project.

The agency has prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project, which will include four pumping stations.

All stations will be partially or fully powered by solar energy, with an estimated cost of Rs 20 crore.

"The plan is to ensure at least 50% of the power required at these stations comes from solar plants. For each, Rs 5 crore has been earmarked," a senior BWSSB official said.

However, the utility is yet to finalise how it will procure solar energy. The BWSSB may either set up its own solar plants or enter a long-term agreement with energy producers, depending on available finances.

"Based on the availability of funds and by analysing what works best for us in terms of finances, we will take a decision about how to go about the project," said BWSSB Chairman Ramprasat Manohar V.

The Cauvery Stage VI project aims to supply water to areas around Bengaluru. Satellite towns like Nelamangala, Devanahalli, Hosakote, Chikkabanavara and others will receive water under the project.

Greener ambitions ahead

The BWSSB is planning to transition other water supply projects to solar power through various procurement strategies.

Currently, the BWSSB spends nearly Rs 60 crore on power bills, one of its major expenses.

Officials say shifting to green energy could reduce costs.

"Various proposals are being identified. One is to establish group captive solar plants in collaboration with other industries, sharing costs in a predetermined manner," a senior official said.

Officials estimate that using solar energy could cut power costs by at least Re 1 per unit.

RAMPRASAT MANOHAR V
BWSSB Chairman

"Based on the availability of funds and by analysing what works best for us in terms of finances, we will take a decision about how to go about the project.

Determined to end city's garbage mess, vows DyCM

Says 33-package tender will be implemented soon

BENGALURU, DHNS

DK Shivakumar

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Monday he is determined to end the city's garbage problem.

Speaking after laying the foundation for an integrated waste management unit at Kannahalli, he said the new garbage tender, split into 33 packages, would soon be finalised and implemented.

"The garbage contractors' mafia has opposed this. However, we now have the go-ahead from the high court. We will soon implement it. We want to produce energy from Bengaluru's waste," he said.

Many contractors approached the court to challenge the decision to split the tender into 33 packages and, through this, attempted to blackmail the government, Shivakumar suggested.

He added that CCTV cameras had been installed to track and penalise those dumping garbage on roadsides. Police are sending notices by checking the number plates of vehicles used for dumping.

"My intentions are clear. I want to produce gas from waste. This works in various states, and we can implement it here, too. Now, two companies have been allowed to work on this," he said.

Around 10 to 12 companies were also approved to produce electricity from waste. However, many have failed, and only a handful are operating now, he added.

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

Students of Bangalore University come together to participate in an awareness rally on World AIDS Day, spreading the message of HIV prevention, education, and solidarity. PTI

GBA, new civic bodies risk bankruptcy, says ex-corporator

BENGALURU, DHNS

Former corporator NR Ramesh has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, warning that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the five new corporations lack adequate resources.

NR Ramesh

He said this could affect administration and delay infrastructure projects.

In an open letter, the BJP leader noted that the now defunct Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) required only 2,818 officials to operate, with their salaries and perks costing Rs 1,176 crore annually.

"Now, with GBA and five corporations, there is a need for 6,326 employees and this would mean that the annual cost would go up to Rs 3,000 crore."

Ramesh said the corporations together collect only about Rs 4,500 crore in property taxes, and their total income would rise to Rs 5,850 crore if plan sanction and other sources are included.

"Considering all the other costs such as the maintenance of roads, parks, grounds and buildings, there would be hardly any fund left to take up infrastructure and development works," the letter said.

He said the corporations and the GBA would go bankrupt within a year.

10K students join 'Friends of Police' mission in city

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police on Monday intensified awareness programmes on drug abuse and women's safety in educational institutes and reputed colleges across the city.

More than 800 police personnel, including top cop Seemant Kumar Singh, took part in the drive under the Bengaluru police's 'Friends of Police' mission aimed at strengthening community policing and involving youth in crime prevention.

Senior police officers addressed students on issues ranging from women's safety to cybercrime prevention.

As part of the initiative, police teams visited 1,250 schools and colleges across all divisions, sub-divisions, and police station limits. Officers delivered PPT presentations, interacted with students, and urged them to partner with the police in tackling crime, drug abuse, and cybercrime.

The police aim to bring 2.5 lakh students on board as part of the 'Friends of Police' network to build a safer and more informed city.

'Police's eyes & ears'

On Monday alone, over 10,000 students took a pledge and enrolled as volunteers, committing to act as the police department's "eyes and ears".

Singh emphasised that this is not just an awareness programme, but an initiative to strengthen police–public relations.

During the sessions, officers explained the safety apps launched by the Bengaluru police, their features, and how students can use them to share information promptly. The initiative, officials said, will help police detect early signs of trouble at the school and college level and take preventive action.

High court refuses to quash case against man accused of rape by Instagram friend

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash rape case proceedings against a 25-year-old business development executive.

The court noted that the allegations disclose serious accusations of sexual assault committed under duress, supported by specific instances and substantiated through the victim's detailed statement under CrPC Section 164 before the magistrate.

The petitioner had befriended the victim through Instagram in May 2023. The victim/complainant claimed that she was subjected to a consistent pattern of assault, sexual violence, intimidation and digital blackmail by the petitioner after their relationship ended in April 2024.

She stated that the accused had retained her private WhatsApp chats and repeatedly threatened that her parents would be informed if she disclosed the incidents, due to which there was a delay in filing the complaint.

Challenging the charges pressed against him for rape, outraging modesty, grievous hurt and criminal intimidation, the petitioner argued that the relationship had been consensual since 2023. He said the complaint was actuated by mala fides and lodged with an ulterior motive to wreak vengeance on him.

On the other hand, the government advocate submitted that the materials in the complaint, FIR and charge sheet, when read collectively, disclose specific and serious allegations which warrant a full-fledged trial.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz said the complaint averments reveal a pattern of coercion, threats, wrongful confinement, physical assault, sexual exploitation and psychological intimidation, despite the complainant's attempts to end the relationship.

केंद्रीय विद्यालय भा.वि.सं. बेंगलूरु–560012
KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE BENGALURU - 560012
E-mail: principal.kviisc@gmail.com
website: https://iiscbangalore.kvs.ac.in Ph: 080-23371316

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR POST OF TGT-ENGLISH

A Walk–in-Interview will be conducted on **08.12.2025 (Monday) from 10.00 a.m to 11.30 a.m.** for the post of **TGT (Englsih),** on contractual basis.

NOTE : Details of eligibility, educational qualification, remuneration and Interview Date and Time are put up in the School Website: **https://iiscbangalore.kvs.ac.in.** Interested eligible candidates report to Vidyalaya as per schedule given in the website along with duly filled Biodata form with all original documents / certificates and one set of self-attested xerox copies of all documents.

No TA/DA will be paid for attending Interview.

Principal

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division (Signal & Telecom Branch)
E-Tender Notice No.SA-SG-120-I-OT-14-2025 Closing Dt. 19/12/2025

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Southern Railway/Salem Division, Salem -636005 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in,** The tenderer(s)/contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"** and only online tenders will be accepted. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC), in respect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only **Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal).**

Tender Notice No. : SA-SG-120-I-OT-14-2025

Name of Work : SALEM DIVISION - SAMT - Proposed Goods Yard remodelling work for direct Reception and Dispatch facility

Approximate Cost of the Work	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender form including tax	Eligibility criteria for similar single work	Period of Completion in months
Rs.6,50,53,092.74	Rs.4,75,300.00	Nil	Applicable	12 months

Tender closing date and time: 19/12/2025 at 15.00 Hrs.

NOTE: Details of approximate value of tender, tender form cost, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, **"www.ireps.gov.in".**

For other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the Tender documents which are available at **"www.ireps.gov.in"** website.

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Southern Railway/Salem - 636 005

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, बोकारो
ई–प्रोक्युरमेंट सूचना
(एस0बी0डी0 आधारित ई–निविदा)
ई–निविदा प्रसंग संख्या–RCD/BOKARO/1673 /F.Y. 2025-26
दिनांक–01.12.2025

1.	कार्य का नाम	पथ प्रमण्डल, बोकारो अन्तर्गत अमलो प्रोजेक्ट से गांधी चौक पथ के IRQP (Improvement of Riding Quality) कार्य (कुल लम्बाई 4.30 कि0मी0) वर्ष 2025–26
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	रू0 7,11,35,358.00 (सात करोड़ ग्यारह लाख पैंतीस हजार तीन सौ अठावन रूपये) मात्र।
3.	कार्य पूर्ण होने की अवधि	02 (दो) माह।
4.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन होने की तिथि एवं समय	10.12.2025, 12.00 बजे दोपहर।
5.	बिड प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	31.12.2025, 12.00 बजे दोपहर तक।
6.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यालय, कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, बोकारो
7.	प्रोक्युरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	**06542–265569**
8.	ई–प्रोक्युरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	**0651–2400210**

नोट :– प्राक्कलित राशि घट बढ़ सकती है।
विस्तृत ब्यौरा के लिए वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता हैं।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
PR 367460 Road(25-26).D **पथ निर्माण विभाग,पथ प्रमण्डल, बोकारो**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. GEM/2025/B/6927257 Dt: 27.11.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
Hiring of MUV pick up vans for TRD depots of Bengaluru division for moving men and materials for 2 years	Rs. 2,77,43,592/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 19.30 hrs on 16.12.2025**
For details log on : www.gem.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru
PUB/697/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

ELECTRICAL TRD WORK IN KATIHAR DIVISION

Tender Notice No: EL_TRD_51_25-26; **Dated:** 26-11-2025. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Tender No.:** EL_TRD_51_25-26. **Name of Work :** Katihar-New Jalpaiguri - Provision of Retro-reflective number plate boards and other safety boards over Katihar Division. **Tender Value:** ₹1,77,53,757.36/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,38,800/-; Date & time closing of tender at **15:00** hrs. and **opening at 15:30** hrs. on **22-12-2025**. Complete information alongwith tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DEE/TRD, Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

North Eastern Railway
E-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No. N-235-62
Tele Tender 11-2025

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Tele/HQ, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender for the following works from the contractors having sufficient experience as per eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document. **Tender No:** N-235-62 Tele Tender 11-2025 **Name of work :** Provision of Telecom work in connection with Provision of work stations & Compactors and other Improvement work in PFA Office, PCMD Office, PCE Office, Law Office and PCCM Office at Gorakhpur, N.E. Railway. **Tender Value:** ₹ 27,85,103.73 (Rs. Twenty Seven Lakh Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred Three and Seventy Three Paisa only) **Bid Security:** ₹ 55,700/- **Validity of offer:** 60 days **Place, Date & Time of closing and opening of Tender:** Office of the DSTE/Tele, N.E. Rly, Gorakhpur, 23.12.2025 at 11:00 Hrs. **Completion Period:** 03 (Three) Months. For any changes of tender, please check on internet website for Corrigendum of the original tender notice. Detailed tender notice, documents, Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions are available at website http://www.ireps.gov.in Note: The Tenderer's/bidder's must upload all relevant attachements /Format/Annexure along with their bid.

Dy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Tele/HQ Gorakhpur
CPRO/Sig-70
DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

S. E. RAILWAY TENDER

Tender Notice No. C-MCC-R1-DT-24-11-25. Open tender is invited by Sr. CDO, Santragachi, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division for and on behalf of the President of India through e-tendering in **www.ireps.gov.in** website as per details mentioned below. Eligible tenderers are requested to apply for the same through online only in **www.ireps.gov.in** website as per details mentioned below. No offline tender will be accepted. Please read the tender document uploaded in the document section for details. **Name of the work :** "Mechanized cleaning of Coaches at new composite Grid at Santragachi Coaching Depot" for 03 years. **Tender Value :** ₹ 32,89,22,939.69. **EMD:** ₹ 17,94,600/-. **Cost of tender document:** ₹ 10,000/- (non-refundable). **Closing date of tender :** 26.12.2025 at 12.00 hrs. **(PR-899)**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Tiruchchirappalli Division)

E-Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-34&35-2025-2026, T-SG-36-III-3-2025-2026 Dt: 28.11.2025.

For and on behalf of The President of India, Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites online tender for the following works **up to 14.00 hrs on 22.12.2025.**

Item No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Work
1.	**T-SG-36-I-34-2025-2026**	Provision of calling on signal below the main line starter signals between SRGM to TLNR Chord line stations.
2.	**T-SG-36-I-35-2025-2026**	Improvement to Earthing Arrangements and lightening protection at vulnerable and priority stations / locations as per the latest TAN of RDSO
3.	**T-SG-36-III-3-2025-2026**	Comprehensive Annual Repair Contract of M/s. Statcon make IPS at stations and LC's over TPJ division for two years.

Item No.	Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees	Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees)	Validity Offer	Date and Time of Closing	Period of Completion in months
1.	3.69 Crores	3,34,300.00/-	60 Days	22.12.2025	12 Months
2.	7.79 Crores	5,39,400.00/-	60 Days	22.12.2025	12 Months
3.	62.56 Lakhs	1,25,100.00/-	90 Days	22.12.2025	24 Months

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.
The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through **https://www.ireps.gov.in/**
GST will apply as per extent norms of GOI
Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom. Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli.

झारखण्ड सरकार
पथ निर्माण विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, लातेहार
(1st Call), ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना
ई–टेन्डर रिफरेंस संख्या– RCD/LATEHAR/1044/2025-26 दिनांक–01.12.2025

1.	कार्य का नाम	मनिका से हेरहंज भाया मटलौंग पथ के चैनेज 27वें कि0मी0 में अवस्थित खपिया नाला पर सेतु निर्माण कार्य।
2क.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू0 में)	रू0 :– 7,16,22,458.00 (सात करोड़ सोलह लाख बाईस हजार चार सौ अनठावन रूपये) मात्र
2ख.	बिड सिक्यूरिटी – (रू0 में)	रू0–7,17,000.00 (सात लाख सतरह हजार) मात्र
3.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	12 (बारह) माह
4.	वेवसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	08.12.2025 को पूर्वाह्न 10.30 बजे से
5.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	28.12.2025 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक
6.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमडल लातेहार, पिन कोड– 829206
7.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का संपर्क संख्या	**06565–247907**
8.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	**0651–2403007**

नोट : निविदा की प्राक्कलित राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है।
निविदा की अन्य जानकारी http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, लातेहार
PR 367410 Road(25-26)#D

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	25.0°C
Minimum	18.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (Dec 2)	5:51 pm
Sunrise (Dec 3)	6:26 am
Moonrise	2:35 pm
Moonset	2:25 am

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Cadets who did exceptionally well in academics, sports and co-curricular activities were felicitated at the event.

Annual day celebrations at Rashtriya Military School

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rashtriya Military School, Bengaluru, celebrated its 79th annual day on November 14 and 15.

Cadets who did exceptionally well in academics, sports and co-curricular activities were felicitated.

Karnataka High Court judge Justice Pradeep Singh Yerur and entrepreneur Deepak Varma — both RMS alumni — were chief guests. Principal Lt Col K Anup Nair presented the school annual report.

The chief guest also released the new edition of the school magazine. A cultural show and a science and robotics exhibition were also organised, said a press release.

SEA Primary and Higher Secondary School organised 'GENESIS', an art and science exhibition, as part of its silver jubilee. MLA Sharath Bachegowda and MLC K Govindaraj, along with school secretary and MLC DT Srinivasa, inaugurated the event.

Rameshwaram Cafe owners booked for selling noxious food

Customer's counter-complaint clouds investigation

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police have booked Rameshwaram Cafe owner Raghavendra Rao, his wife Divya Raghavendra Rao and senior executive Sumanth Lakshminarayan for selling noxious food, giving false information, criminal conspiracy, and related offences.

The case followed a complaint by builder, Nikhil N.

On Monday, Bangalore International Airport police issued notices to the three to appear for questioning.

Nikhil, a Marathahalli resident, alleged he was served worm-infested Ven Pongal at the cafe's Terminal 1 outlet on July 24. Staff offered a replacement, but he declined as he was rushing to catch a flight. Other customers recorded the incident.

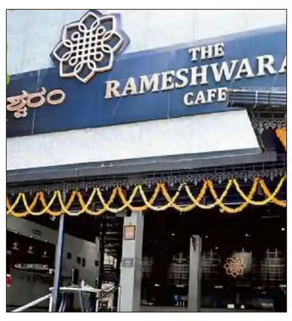
The next day, Sumanth, the cafe's operations head, filed a counter-complaint at the Vyalikaval police station, alleging that a group of customers had demanded Rs 25 lakh in blackmail and extortion.

Police arrested a suspect during the investigation and summoned Nikhil and his friends. Nikhil denied the allegation and submitted call records. Police later clarified that neither he nor his friends had any link to the arrested suspect.

Nikhil then filed a counter-complaint, accusing the cafe's management of criminal intimidation and damaging his reputation.

Hussain Owais, Nikhil's advocate, said police repeatedly summoned his client and four friends.

"It was embarrassing for Nikhil. He is from a well-to-do family. Why would he need to extort anyone?" the lawyer stated. He said that police did not take up the case immediately and filed only a Non-Cognisable Report (NCR).



Owais then approached food safety officials and the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast), alleging the case was mishandled.

Following the DCP's instructions, police registered an FIR under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for selling noxious food, giving false information and criminal conspiracy, among other offences, against the Raos and Sumanth.

"It was harassment of my client. They tried to damage his reputation. It is a clear case of criminal conspiracy," Owais stated.

Notices issued

A senior police officer said notices had been issued to all those named in the FIR and assured a thorough investigation after statements were recorded.

A Vyalikaval police officer said that although the suspects made a WhatsApp call and were summoned, there was no evidence Nikhil and his friends were involved in blackmail or extortion.

A spokesperson for Rameshwaram Cafe declined to comment. Sumanth's phone was switched off.

Realtor on the run after demanding sexual favours from therapist

BENGALURU, DHNS: A realtor allegedly misbehaved with a woman therapist at an ayurvedic wellness spa in Mathikere, according to a police complaint.

The Yeshwantpur police have identified the suspect and are looking out for him, a senior officer said.

As per the FIR, the realtor visited the spa on November 29 and demanded sexual advances from the therapist. She replied that they were into ayurveda and do only massages.

However, the man tried to pull her clothes and threatened to leak her private videos online. The therapist got scared. She, along with the female receptionist, ran out and alerted the police.

"We have recovered CCTV footage of the spa and are carrying out further investigations," the officer said.

Actor's kin found dead: Boyfriend booked for suicide abetment

BENGALURU, DHNS: Days after Kannada actor Ashika Ranganath's cousin was found dead in a southern Bengaluru apartment, police booked her boyfriend for abetment to suicide.

The FIR was registered by Puttenahalli police on November 22 after a complaint by Harsha B, father of the deceased, Achala Harsha (22).

Achala, an engineering graduate from Hassan, was found dead in her Bengaluru apartment on November 21.

Police have named the boyfriend, Mayank Gowda, and his mother, Myna, in the FIR.

In his complaint, Harsha alleged that Mayank falsely promised marriage, sexually and mentally harassed Achala, and drove her to die by suicide. He also alleged that Myna abused and threatened Achala.

Spoken Kannada classes

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kannada Prasaara Parishat has started online spoken Kannada classes in two batches.

Each batch will have 30 hours of classes spread over 20 sessions. Both batches will continue only if at least 20 participants register.

Contact BV Raghavan at 9448878569 for details.

Labourer killed by speeding vehicle near Devanahalli

BENGALURU, DHNS

A construction worker was killed on Sunday after a speeding car hit him while he was crossing National Highway 44 near Devanahalli, police said.

The victim died of his injuries while being taken to hospital, and police arrested the driver for causing death by negligence. The incident occurred around 6.15 pm near Sattva Apartments.

Pintu Paswan (39), a mason at a private company, was crossing the highway from Sattva Apartments towards Kannamangala when a white Toyota Innova (KA 50 ME 9972) allegedly struck him at high speed.

The impact flung Paswan onto the car's bonnet before he fell onto the road. Witnesses, including a co-worker, rushed a profusely bleeding Paswan to a private hospital in an ambulance. Doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Police identified the Innova driver as Mohan Kumar CM, 34, who was headed towards Devanahalli.

In this CCTV grab, the child runs back home in pain after being run over by the car.

Caught on camera: Car mows down child in Nelamangala; driver held

BENGALURU, DHNS: A three-year-old child in Subhash Nagar, Nelamangala, survived after a speeding car ran him over on Sunday evening.

The near-fatal incident was captured on CCTV and led to the driver's arrest for reckless negligence, police said.

The boy, Dakshit, was playing on the residential road when a Maruti Ertiga (KA 52 N 0460) approached a bend at high speed. The driver, Kishore, failed to control the vehicle and it ran over the child.

Police said the child's screams drew residents out of their homes. They rushed him to a private hospital, where he is undergoing treatment for serious injuries to his head, face and back. Officers said he survived despite the severity of the impact.

CCTV footage shows the driver operating the car in a reckless manner within the residential lane.

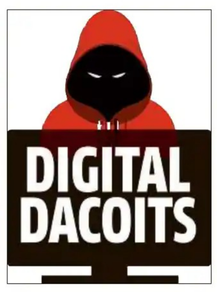
Nelamangala traffic police have registered a case and arrested Kishore.

Woman duped of Rs 14.60 lakh after downloading fake Bescom app

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 60-year-old woman from Vidyaranyapura lost Rs 14.60 lakh after downloading a fake Bescom app.

The malicious app, likely containing malware such as a Remote Access Trojan (RAT), gave the cybercriminals access to her phone. This enabled them to receive her bank's One Time Passwords (OTPs), officials said.



The woman, a professor, told the police that on November 25, she received a call from an unknown number.

The caller claimed to be a Bescom official and said she had to pay Rs 12 to update her bill.

The woman was not alarmed as the amount was small and proceeded to download and install 'Bescom Bill Update.apk', which the cybercriminal shared with her on WhatsApp.

Subsequently, without her knowledge, OTPs were generated and forwarded to an unknown number belonging to the perpetrators. The woman learnt that Rs 12.62 lakh was debited from her Canara Bank account and Rs 1.98 lakh from her ICICI Bank credit card.

Alarmed and realising it was cyberfraud, the woman contacted 1930, the national cybercrime helpline, and the city police.

A probe is underway.

Think, then click: Cops

Police officials have urged the public to refrain from clicking on unsolicited links from unknown senders or downloading suspicious apps onto their mobile phones.

Samajwadi Party MP stuck in city traffic, slams police as 'useless'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Samajwadi Party MP, Rajeev Rai, took to social media platform X on Sunday to lambast the city's traffic police, claiming he was stuck in "worst traffic management" for over an hour and was unable to reach any officer for assistance.

In response, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar told the media, "Let me meet him in Delhi. I will show him what the traffic is like in Delhi and I will also tag and post it online."

The incident, which occurred on the heavily congested Rajkumar Samadhi Road, saw the MP expressing concern about missing a flight, as he was due to attend the ongoing Parliament session.

"Hon'ble @CMofKarnataka I m sorry but you have the worst traffic management, and most irresponsible, useless traffic police," Rai's post read. The MP highlighted the complete absence of traffic personnel: "Not a single police man is seen around."

Rai attached a screenshot of his mobile call log as evidence, showing multiple consecutive calls to four different Bengaluru traffic helplines and patrol numbers as none were picked up.

He charged that the city's perennial gridlock has "earned the reputation of most notorious traffic", tagging both the Bengaluru City Police and the Joint Commissioner of Traffic Police in his viral post.

K-RIDE Managing Director Lakshman Singh with outgoing MD Govinda Reddy on Monday.

Lakshman Singh assumes charge as K-RIDE's full-time MD

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lakshman Singh, a 1996-batch Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) officer, on Monday assumed charge as the first full-time managing director of Railway Infrastructure Development Company Karnataka (K-RIDE) in over three years.

Speaking to *DH*, Singh pledged to fast-track all components of the long-delayed Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) and ensure seamless coordination among the various agencies involved.

Addressing engineers, officers, support staff and project heads, he stated: "Over the past few years, I have deeply understood the pulse of this project — its significance, its transformative potential for the people of Karnataka and the challenges it has faced and overcome. I know how important the work before us is and what it is capable of achieving."

Before his latest appointment, Singh was Chief General Manager (Civil) at Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited.

In the Indian Railways, he served in key roles, including ADRM, DRM (Works), and Chief Engineer (Construction).

He was instrumental in several major infrastructure projects, including the development of India's first air-conditioned railway station building at SMVT Bengaluru, according to a K-RIDE statement.

The 149-km suburban railway project, which will have four corridors running along the city's train network, has faced inordinate delays. Its revised deadline is 2028.

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Chamarajanagar deaths: Panel submits report to CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Justice John Michael Cunha Commission formed to inquire into the deaths at the Chamarajanagar district hospital due to oxygen shortage in 2021, submitted its report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday.

The report was submitted to the chief minister in the presence of his legal advisor A S Ponnanna and his Political Secretary, Naseer Ahmed.

24 people died

During the Covid second wave, 24 people died due to an oxygen shortage at the Chamarajanagar district hospital.

At the time, the B S Yediyurappa-led BJP government was in power in the state.

While Dr K Sudhakar was the Health Minister, S Suresh Kumar was the district in-charge minister of Chamarajanagar.

Lapses in govt depts

Following a government notification on August 25, 2023, the Cunha Commission was set up to look into alleged lapses by the health, medical education and other government departments during the Covid pandemic in connection with procurement and distribution of medicines and equipment between March 2020 and December 2022.

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'Freeze' on govt recruitments leaves job aspirants in jeopardy

Youth enrolled for coaching sustain with part-time jobs

SRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

"It has been over eight years since I came to Dharwad aspiring to become a government officer. The last four years have been extremely difficult as my family stopped funding my education. I now work in a bar and restaurant to pay fees and continue studies," said Sharan from Badami.

His anguish mirrors that of hundreds of government job aspirants from across North Karnataka who migrated to Dharwad for competitive exam coaching.

Over the last month, district headquarters in the region have witnessed rising unrest among youth due to continued absence of recruitment.

On Monday, over 50 students who had planned a protest demanding job notifications and age relaxation were taken into preventive custody by police. This anger is rapidly spreading, posing a warning to the government.

Protest at session

In Vijayapura, over a thousand aspirants took out a massive rally condemning the government for not issuing recruitment notifications. A similar protest was held in Raichur. Jobless youth have now resolved to stage a large demonstration in front of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, during the winter session of the legislature.

The government's failure to initiate recruitment drives to fill lakhs of vacant posts in departments has pushed aspirants into distress.

Returning home

Unable to sustain the cost of living in Dharwad, many returned to their native places, while others have taken up odd part-time jobs.

According to estimates, around 1.5 lakh candidates are currently in Dharwad for coaching.

They hail from Haveri, Gadag, Koppal, Belagavi, Uttara Kannada, Bagalkot, Davangere, Shivamogga and Raichur districts — most from rural backgrounds.

Huge vacancies

"My father had to borrow Rs 3 lakh to support my education. After completing BA, I came to Dharwad for competitive exam coaching. It has been six years now, but there is still no hope. My parents are asking me to return home and take up agriculture," said a dejected Manjunath Malipatil.

Student leader Yellappa Hegade told *DH* that there are over 2.78 lakh vacancies in state departments and nearly 10 lakh in central departments.

"None of the governments is showing interest in issuing notifications. This is unacceptable," he said.

Following the Covid pandemic, the situation worsened. No major recruitments were held. This resulted in many candidates crossing upper age limit.

"They are caught between the devil and the deep sea, unable to return home and also apply for government jobs. They are forced into part-time work," Hegade said.

Another student leader, Laxman Jadagannavar, said some aspirants had started running student canteens and providing part-time jobs to others.

"Instead of giving jobs to candidates, the government is ignoring their demands. If this continues, the government will face severe backlash from students," he warned.

Police take government job aspirants into preventive custody ahead of their protest rally in Dharwad on Monday. DH PHOTO

Protesters taken into preventive custody

Job aspirants from various districts who had converged on Dharwad to participate in a protest rally over the lack of government recruitment were taken into preventive custody on Monday.

The police stated that the protesters had issued a call on social media urging people to join the rally and stage a night-long dharna by blocking major junctions in the city. Citing law-and-order concerns, the Hubballi-Dharwad police denied permission for the rally.

Defying the order, members of the Government Job Seekers Agitation Committee proceeded with the protest march, following which the police detained them. The protesters were released later in the evening.

Charter of demands

- Increase upper age limit for police constable recruitment
- Relax age limit for all posts by 5 years in view of stalled recruitments
- Clearing confusion over internal reservation
- Start Indira canteens for job aspirants
- Reduce application fees
- Publish annual recruitment calendar for vacant posts

DH
Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the Public that my Client **Sri. Anok Melvin Marshall** S/o Smt.Uma Rani.G.S, R/o K.S.Town, Bengaluru (THE PURCHASER) intended to purchase the schedule property described below from its owner namely Ms. Umadevi, D/o. Chennabasappa Bhogi, R/o of Jayanagar 5th Block, Bengaluru (THE OWNER) have been acquired through the Registered Sale Deed dated 08.10.2001, registered as No. BNG (U) ANKL.S.R/D.NO. 4226/2001-02, Book No. I, and stored in CD No. ANKL. S.R 04/2001-02, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal, (Basavanagudi district), Bengaluru.
Any person, who has/have claim/right/title or interest on the schedule property, may lodge such claim with the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this notice, failing which, the claim(s) or objections if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the owner of the schedule property by execution of registered sale deed.
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All that piece and parcel of Site No. 24, Old No. 178:96:24 (Janjar Katha No-210:96:24) Current Katha No. 236/210/24/1 with eAASTHI-PID No: 9040970245, at Denmar Avenue Situated at Survey No. 93/2 of Kamasandra Village, Hebagodi CMC, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District 560100.
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Sd/- PRAVEEN M.R
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VAJEEHA BANU @ VAJIHABANU @ VAJEEHA,** residing at # 1757, Santhe Field, Malebennur, Harihara Taluk, Davanagere Dist., declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **VAJEEHA BANU**, vide affidavit 13.05.2025 before notary M.Prathaparudra, Davanagere.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Naveena M** and **Honakeri Naveena** residing at No. 6, Chowdeshwari Nilaya R.T. Nagar Public School, Yehahanka Taluk, Singanayakanahalli, Bengaluru North-560064, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **NAVEENA M** vide affidavit dated 27.11.2025 before notary S.R. Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **FATHIMA BATOOL MOHAMMED FAHIM,** residing at No.S-1, Vastav Regency 1st Cross, 9th A Main, 1st Stage, BTM Layout, Bengaluru - 560029 have changed my name to **FATIMA BATOOL** vide affidavit dtd: 01-12-2025 before notary K.N.Ramadevi, Bengaluru, Henceforth I shall be called as **FATIMA BATOOL** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Shabana @ Shabana Taj @ S Shabana Musheer,** residing at No. 09, D Street, Opposite to Sharma Transport, Kalasipalyam, Bengaluru-560002, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **S SHABANA MUSHEER** vide affidavit dated 01.12.2025 before notary M Prabhakar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUNIL S NEERALAGI,** residing at No.3375, Sri Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 1st Block, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru - 560060, have changed my name to **SUNIL VIRUPAKSHAPPA SHYADAGUPPI** vide affidavit dtd: 23-11-2025 before notary P. Anuradha, Bengaluru, Henceforth I shall be called as **SUNIL VIRUPAKSHAPPA SHYADAGUPPI** only.

I,SHRADDHA WAINGANKAR
Residing`at Prestige_North Point No.2031,B_Wing HRBR`Layout 3rd`Block, Kalyan_Nagar, Bengaluru-560043 have`changed my`Name`to SHRADDHA SATYAVAN WAINGANKAR vide`Affidavit Dtd:29.11.2025 Sworn`Before Notary H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya, Bangalore

Announcements

WITH GREAT joy, I,Rakesh KR happy to share that my wife, Dr. Varshini SK conferred her PhD in Management at the 8th Annual Convocation of Presidency University on 29/11/2025. Her thesis, "The Impact of Individual Investors' Behaviour on Investment Decision Making," was guided by Dr.Srinivasan P.

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **K. Ramesh**, R/a Shakambari Layout, Attibele, Anekal Taluk have lost Sale deed document in name K. Ramesh S/o Late Kenchappa and Shobha W/o K. Ramesh bearing **Sy. No. 295, Site No. 113, Size 30 x 40,** Attibele Anekal Tq **Document No ABL-1-00522-2011-12 CD No. ABLD64** dated 13-05-2011 registered at office Attibele, Anekal Taluk on 25-11-2025 at Attibele.
Finders please contact : 9443687998 or inform near by Police

EXH-12
NOTICE
IN THE FAMILY COURT NO. 6, MUMBAI AT BANDRA
PETITION NO. D - 21 OF 2025
Mrs. Janaki Sivakumar Subramanian ...Petitioner
Versus
Mr. Sivakumar Subramanian ...Respondent
To,
Mr. Sivakumar Subramanian ...Respondent
R/at : 203, Ankhsu Maple, Bethel Nagar, 2nd Main Road, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560036. (Mobile No. 7738763069)
TAKE NOTICE THAT the Petitioner abovenamed has filed petition against you for custody u/s. 7(1)(a)(b) of Guardian and Wards Act R/W 7(1) (g) of the Family Court Act.
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, the petition is fixed for **Return of Publication on 8th day of January, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.** [Sharp] in **Family Court No. 6, Mumbai at Bandra,** or before any other Hon'ble Judge, presiding in the Family Court Mumbai at Bandra, assigned charge of the said Court No.6, when you are required to appear in person and file your Written Statement and in default of your doing so, the Judge-Family Court No.6 will proceed to hear the said Petition, against you ex-parte and pronounce Judgment thereon;
THIS NOTICE IS ORDERED by Smt. R.N. Khan, Judge, Family Court No. 6 on 21st day of August, 2025.
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS COURT DATED THIS 12th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025
Sd/- Deputy Registrar,
Family Court Mumbai,
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400 051

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **REMYA RETHY @ REMYA RAJAMMAL,** residing at Jai Bharathi Signature, Dodda Kempaiah Layout, Kalkere, Horamavu, Bengaluru - 560043, declare that the above names pertain to me only.
I have changed my name **Remya Rajammal** to **Remya Rethy** in Passport. Henceforth I shall be known as **REMYA RETHY**, vide affidavit 24.10.2025 before notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru

AICTE Idea Labs to be set up at three VTU centres

To nurture innovative thinking, improve practical knowledge

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to help its students cultivate an innovative bent of mind, besides enabling them to transform their ideas into industry-ready prototypes, the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) is all set to establish three Idea Laboratories, in association with the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

To begin with, the AICTE Idea Labs will be set up at the VTU's regional centres in Kalaburagi, Davanagere and Belagavi districts.

The cost of setting up each laboratory is estimated to be around Rs 70-80 lakh, and the VTU has floated tenders inviting private players to take up the endeavour.

AICTE to share expense

Given AICTE's steadfast commitment to improving the quality of technical education across the country, the body will bear part of the expense for the Idea Labs, while the university and contributions from the varsity's alumni will account for the rest.

Failure to secure enough funds from the alumni will mean the educational institutions, where the labs are being set up, having to bear the remaining expenses.

A VTU official conceded that questions would be raised about the objective behind setting up Idea Labs given that all engineering colleges house laboratories. "But the Idea Lab will house machines and equipment you won't find in college laboratories. Moreover, it will be a lab that students cutting across disciplines–Mechanical, Civil, Computer Science, etc., – will find use for," the official added.

From sewing machines to three-dimensional cutting machines, the Idea Labs will boast a wide variety of equipment, which students from the first to eighth semester can use.

VTU Vice-Chancellor S Vidyashankar said that Idea Labs would enhance the practical knowledge of students. "A laboratory is already functioning at our VTU campus in Muddenahalli, and we are setting up similar labs at other VTU colleges and centres," he added.

Buy maize for use as animal, chicken feed at MSP: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that producers of animal and chicken food should purchase maize at minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 2,400 announced by the union government.

The chief minister was chairing a meeting of animal and chicken food producers.

Siddaramaiah

Noting that maize grown by farmers would be purchased through the Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation (KSCMCF) Limited, Siddaramaiah said the government would bear transportation, loading and unloading costs.

The government had taken steps to help farmers battered by decreasing maize prices, adding that distilleries had already begun the process of procuring 7 lakh metric tonnes of maize, he said.

"The KSCMF has initiated the process of purchasing 50,000 tonnes of maize. Similarly, an indent will be issued to animal and chicken producing sector and the purchase of 5 lakh metric tonnes of maize will be started," Siddaramaiah said.

In kharif season, maize has been grown on 17.6 lakh hectares, and 53.8 lakh tonnes are expected to be produced.

Of this, 50-60% maize is expected to be used as feed for chicken and animals.

According to officials, 25.89 lakh tonnes of maize is used annually as feed for chicken and animals.

Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh, Food & Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa, Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy, Excise Minister R B Thimmapur and others were present.

Stir for purchase centre

Farmers held a protest in the town on Monday, demanding that the government should set up maize purchase centres, reports dhns from Lakshmeshwar in Gadag district.

They set fire to tyres during the protest on the Pala-Badami state highway and warned that they would not withdraw it till their demand was met.

Hundreds of farmers had gathered, at the venue of the indefinite agitation, to celebrate the announcement recently on starting maize purchase centres and also performed a puja. However, since there was no progress, they resumed the protest and raised slogans against the district administration.

Third edition of BLR Hubba to be held in January

BENGALURU, DHNS: The third edition of the BLR Hubba will be held between January 16 and 25, V Ravichandar, chief facilitator of the event, announced on Monday.

Speaking at a press conference by UnboxingBLR (UBLR), he stated that the 2026 edition would feature over 250 performances from across more than 12 genres.

The annual event, which usually takes place in December, has been pushed to January. This edition will be spread across over 20 venues, including Sabha, Bangalore International Centre and Freedom Park, among other venues.

This year, the festival will see 80% new programming and will be divided into 12 sub-festivals, such as 'Anubhava Hubba', 'Kala Hubba', 'Kantha Hubba' and 'Futures Hubba'.

Entry for all events is free

"BLR Hubba 2026 is our promise to bring the city alive through its public spaces. We are moving beyond a curated arts festival to a true public celebration, offering Bengalureans a chance to rediscover their city through diverse and off-the-beaten-track cultural experiences," said Ravichandar.

UBLR also announced a few other key initiatives scheduled in the coming months. One of the initiatives is the Namma Bengaluru Challenge 2026. This year, the city-led startup accelerator will revolve around the theme 'Hot Problems, Cool Solutions', focusing on climate solutions for the city's problems such as air pollution, construction waste and sanitation.

The challenge has been scaled up this year, with each of the five winners being provided a grant of Rs 25 lakh. From over 600 entries, 10 shortlisted startups will pitch to a jury on January 24, 2026.

UBLR is also working with the South Western Railway to build a Nandi Rail Museum at the Nandi Halt Station, and is also working towards a city-centric community platform.

Dakshina Kannada MP seeks ban on duty free import of arecanut

NEW DELHI, DHNS

KARNATAKA in PARLIAMENT

Dakshina Kannada MP Captain Brijesh Chowta on Monday urged the Centre to immediately ban the duty free import of arecanut from least developed countries (LDCs) like Bhutan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

Raising the issue in the House, he said largescale arecanut imports from these countries had been adversely affecting India's domestic arecanut market, severely impacting farmers in key producing regions, mostly in Karnataka.

These countries currently enjoy zero customs duty under India's duty-free quota-free (DFQF) preferential trade scheme — a provision originally intended to support LDC economies, but now being misused in a way that harms Indian farmers.

The zero-duty window has resulted in low-cost, inferior-quality arecanut flooding Indian market, destabilising prices and pushing cultivators to distress, he said.

The normal arecanut imports attract 100% basic customs duty, but DFQF exemption nullifies this protection entirely.

This loophole has led to price crashes, market instability and deep economic anxiety among lakhs of cultivators, he said.

Between September 2023 and August 2024, Bhutan accounted for 57% of all arecanut import shipments, followed by Myanmar at 39% and Sri Lanka at around 2%, he said.

India is fully self-sufficient in arecanut production, with around 14 lakh tonnes nationally in 2023–24 and Karnataka contributing 10 lakh tonnes.

Yet, large volumes of zero-duty imports continue, creating steep and unfair price disparity that erodes competitiveness of farmers in major growing districts of Dakshina Kannada, Shivamogga, Udupi and Chikkamagaluru, he said.

Reports indicate that India imported approximately 30,271 tonnes of arecanut in first eight months of 2023–24 — a volume that stands in stark contrast to domestic production.

No special grant pending, Centre tells state

The Centre on Monday told LS that no special grant recommended by the 15th finance commission for Karnataka remained pending or unpaid.

Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply that the 15th finance commission, in its first report, had recommended a special grant of Rs 5,495 crore to compensate for revenue loss suffered by the state.

In its second report, the commission recommended Rs 3,000 crore for development of lakes in Bengaluru and other areas, and Rs 3,000 crore for Bengaluru peripheral ring road project. A total of Rs 11,495 crore in special grants was recommended for Karnataka, the minister said in reply to a query by Bellary LS member E Tukaram.

The state government has repeatedly written to the finance ministry, saying that this Rs 11,495 crore grant was pending.

Jal Jeevan: Action against 99 contractors

Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti V Somanna on Monday said action had been taken against 99 contractors in the state for irregularities and poor-quality work under Jal Jeevan mission.

A total of 169 complaints had been received from Karnataka. Disciplinary action had been initiated against 9 officials. One case was being investigated by an independent agency, the minister told LS in a written answer.

Power 'sharing': Siddu at DKS' house today for breakfast

We're working like brothers, media pressuring us to meet: Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has invited Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for breakfast on Tuesday, in yet another move to project unity between the two amid their leadership tussle.

Siddaramaiah had invited Shivakumar for breakfast last Saturday, following an instruction from the Congress high command, which was worried about their tussle going out of hand.

"Me and the CM continue to work together as a team. I have invited the honourable CM for breakfast tomorrow to discuss and strengthen our collective efforts to deliver on our promises to Karnataka," Shivakumar said on Monday.

After Saturday's breakfast meeting, Siddaramaiah said, "There won't be any confusion" between him and Shivakumar.

However, there was no solution forthcoming as Siddaramaiah did not provide clarity on his continuation. He maintained that the party high command would decide on the leadership issue.

Earlier in the day, Siddaramaiah said Shivakumar had invited him for breakfast on Tuesday.

"I haven't received any call till now, other than what he said that day. If invited, I will go. I think he will invite me," the CM said.

Asked about inviting Siddaramaiah over for breakfast, Shivakumar said earlier, "It's a matter related to me and the CM, we both are working like brothers. We met under your (media) pressure (on Saturday). There was no need for it. You're alleging groupism, but there are no groups. You are creating groups - DK group, Siddaramaiah group and others".

Shivakumar maintained that he had all 140 Congress MLAs with him.

"When we take birth or die, we are alone. When it comes to the party, we will take everyone together. There is no need for anyone to worry," he said.

BJP not interested in forming govt: Vijayendra

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra claimed that he had information about at least eight leaders competing for chief minister's chair in the Congress, reports DHNS from Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Vijayendra said that administrative machinery in the state has collapsed due to the internal bickering in the ruling party. He said that the BJP is not interested in forming government. "People have given clear mandate for the Congress and made us Opposition. We will monitor the functioning of the government as an effective Opposition," Vijayendra said.

Presidency University holds 8th convocation

Members of the Board of Governors and Board of Management, and senior faculty of Presidency University, along with chief guest Ronnie Screwvala (sixth from left, front row) and guest of honour Dilip Thakore (eighth from left, front row) at the convocation ceremony.

Presidency University hosted its 8th convocation on November 29, 2025, coinciding with the institution's 10th year of establishment. As many as 4,953 students, including 3,686 undergraduates, 1,233 postgraduates, 34 PhD scholars, and 32 gold medal recipients, graduated this year. The ceremony was attended by parents, faculty and corporate partners, along with chief guest Ronnie Screwvala, Co-founder and Chairman, Upgrad and guest of honour Dilip Thakore, Publisher and Editor, Education World.

Ronnie Screwvala lauded the university's multi-disciplinary academic ecosystem. He urged students to embrace innovation, take risks, dare to dream and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Dilip Thakore spoke on the global challenges in education and encouraged graduates to play transformative roles in nation-building. He praised Karnataka for fostering institutions such as Presidency University, known for academic excellence and its holistic, composite campus.

The ceremony was presided over by Chancellor Dr Nissar Ahmed, with Vice Chancellor (in-charge) Prof S J Thiruvengadam, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Vidya Shetty, Registrar Dr Sameena Noor Ahmed Panali and members of the Board of Governors and Board of Management.

Curated by DH Brandspot

13 depts yet to share secondary data with BCs' panel for caste census

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 13 government departments have failed to furnish secondary data sought by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission for the Social and Educational Survey or caste census.

These departments have failed to upload information on the caste of their staff, university students, among others. The state government has issued a final reminder to all departments asking them to provide the information sought by the commission.

The survey, carried out in September and October, entailed collection of data at the citizens' doorstep. This needs to be supplemented by data from departments that illuminate caste-wise representation in government service and at educational institutions. This secondary data is essential to the commission, since it will be used in making recommendations to the government.

Although the departments were told to share the data by November 30, they have failed to meet the deadline, and the commission is hoping the information is furnished by Tuesday.

Energy, Social Welfare, Backward Classes Welfare, Animal Husbandry, Co-Operation, Medical Education, Kannada and Culture, Youth Empowerment, IT/BT, Scheduled Castes Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs, Horticulture, and Information and Public Relations departments have shared all the information sought by the commission.

Finance, Rural Development, Public Works, Woman and Child Welfare, Minor Irrigation, Agriculture, Labour, Major Irrigation, Skill Development, Home, Internal Administration, Infrastructure and Law have shared part of the information that the commission has asked for.

Meanwhile, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Urban Development, Public Works, Woman and Child Development, Housing, Higher Education, School Education, Revenue, Social Security, Sericulture, Fisheries, Commerce and Industries, Health and Family Welfare departments are yet to begin uploading relevant information.

In her letter to these departments, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner Uma Mahadevan has lamented their failure to share all the relevant information despite skilled nodal officers being appointed, and further, being trained on how to upload the data.

She has directed the Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries of all departments to upload data on employees across Groups – A, B, C and D – besides sharing information on students at universities and other educational institutions.

Why it is important?

- Information with departments is considered secondary data
- Secondary data is accurate
- Category-wise breakdown of government employees is essential
- Information on students vital to assessment of extent of literacy among different communities
- Secondary data also essential to assessment of community representation

Pre-primary kids at govt schools to get eggs, bananas

BENGALURU, DHNS: Although pre-primary sections were started at government schools in the 2019-20 academic year, students were not provided eggs and bananas, unlike their counterparts in higher classes.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has now decided to distribute these nutrition-rich natural foods to pre-primary kids as well.

This follows a decision taken at the meeting of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Abhiyan Approval Board in April 2025.

The department has now issued an order instructing schools to distribute eggs, bananas, and milk, along with midday meals to pre-primary children starting from Monday.

Cost of preparing food, when calculated for each student, comes up to Rs 6.78, of which the Centre contributes Rs 4.07, and the state government chips in Rs 2.71.

The Azim Premji Foundation, on the other hand, foots the bill for supplying eggs to the schools for four days of the week, while the department is responsible for distributing eggs on the other two days.

Siddaramaiah calls BJP leaders 'Burude gang'

Says 'they claim credit without doing work'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday described BJP leaders as "Burude Gang" for, he said, they claim credit without doing work.

"We (Congress) introduced the guarantee schemes to help women fight inequality. Did BJP do that? Who brought the food security law? It was Manmohan Singh," Siddaramaiah said.

"People chant 'Modi, Modi' in spite of him doing nothing. By doing such politics in the country...they're like the Burude Gang," Siddaramaiah said.

The CM was speaking at an event where 238 best-performing gram panchayats were given the 2023-24 Gandhi Gram Puraskar awards. The CM also launched the e-Swathu 2.0 portal.

Siddaramaiah slammed the Modi administration for not providing funds for schemes such as Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

He also criticised the union government for giving Karnataka only 13-15 paise for every rupee that goes from the state. Siddaramaiah also said that it was BJP's former Rajya Sabha member, the late Rama Jois who moved court against reservation in local bodies for women.

Under the new e-Swathu 2.0 platform, rural local bodies will take up a one-time measure to issue khatas to unauthorised properties constructed before April 2025 by imposing double tax. About 95 lakh rural properties will be brought under the tax net through e-Swathu 2.0, Panchayat Raj Commissioner Dr Arundhathi Chandrashekar said.

Earlier, the time limit to provide khatas was 45 days. This has been brought down to 15 days. Any delay will result in "deemed approval."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar give away awards during the Gandhi Grama Puraskara ceremony in Bengaluru on Monday. Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge is also seen. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Report finds groundwater overuse in five districts

NEW DELHI, DHNS:

Five districts in Karnataka have witnessed overexploitation of groundwater, the Central Groundwater Board has said in its latest report.

The annual groundwater quality report-2025 report said large-scale extraction has taken place in the districts of Kolar, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural and Chitradurga.

It said groundwater situation is critical in Bengaluru South (Ramanagar) and Tumakuru districts. The report mentions groundwater over-exploitation in Vijayanagar, Bagalkot, Gadag, Belagavi, Chamarajanagar and Davangere districts.

Under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, 17 lakh water conservation structures have been constructed in the state for groundwater recharge. As a result, there has been slight increase in groundwater levels, the report said.

The overall groundwater extraction rate in Karnataka was 68.44% in 2024, which came down to 66.49% in 2025, it said.

The report - prepared after analysing 14,978 groundwater samples collected in 2024 across the country—said about 71.7% of samples comply with BIS standards of permissible limits for drinking water, whereas the remaining 28.3% samples exceed the limit for one or more parameters, indicating localised quality concerns.

The report indicates that 13-15% of the total collected water samples have uranium contamination in India.

"Overall, most samples meet the prescribed standards, though some areas reflect the need for focused monitoring and quality improvement measures," it said.

Factors contributing to groundwater quality decline in the country include excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides, improper waste disposal and sewage leakage in urban areas, discharge of untreated industrial waste and over-extraction.

QR codes at fair price shops to facilitate distribution of Indira kits

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has decided to place a QR code, scanning which ration card holders will be given the Indira (Integrated Nutrition and Dietary Initiative for Revitalising Annabhagya beneficiaries) food kit.

The Indira kit is issued in lieu of the 10kg of rice that beneficiaries were entitled to under the Anna Bhagya scheme. The Indira kit comprises toor dal, sunflower oil, sugar and salt, besides 5kg of rice.

This was one of the decisions taken during a meeting on the Anna Bhagya scheme chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The distribution of 1.25 crore Indira kits each month costs an estimated Rs 466 crore. As per estimates, 18,628 tonnes of toor dal and 12,419 tonnes each of sunflower oil, sugar and salt are needed each month. During the meeting, the CM is learnt to have directed officials to ensure that good quality toor dal is provided in the food kits.

"Adequate quality and quantity of food materials needs to be ensured. There should not be any room for complaints and the scheme has to be implemented transparently," Siddaramaiah told the officials. It was further decided that the food kits must reach fair price shops by the 10th each month.

Anna Bhagya is one of the five guarantee schemes that the Congress pledged to implement in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly elections. Originally, the scheme entailed distribution of 5kg of rice in addition to the 5kg of rice provided under the National Food Security Act, 2013.

However, the government initially provided 5kg of rice and Rs 170 in cash instead of 5kg rice following the Union government's decision banning the sale of rice in the open market.

In February, when the Centre agreed to sell rice, the state began providing 10kg rice to each person in a family with a BPL card. In October, the government switched to the distribution of Indira kits.

Rally by Dalit bodies peaceful in Chittapur

KALABURAGI, DHNS: The rally organised by dalit organisations in RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge's hometown Chittapur in the district passed off peacefully amidst tight police security on Monday. Samvidhana Rakshana Samiti took out a route march, calling it 'Bheema Nade'.

Thousands of people gathered on either side of the roads, showering flower petals on the marching volunteers, including men and women, throughout the route march. This was followed by a public meeting.

The rally is seen as a counter to the route march taken out by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in the town on November 16, after conditional approval from the tahsildar, following a month-long tussle between the government and the RSS and the court order.

Members of Dalit organisations raised slogans hailing the Constitution and its architect Dr Ambedkar.

Hundreds of people dressed in white shirts, khaki pants and blue caps took part in the 1.5-km procession.

Several religious heads and leaders of various organisations, including Bheem Army and Dalit Panthers, participated.

Cong leader, ex-MLA R V Devaraj passes away

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress leader and former MLA R V Devaraj passed away in Mysuru on Monday night due to a heart attack. He was 67.

Devaraj, who is said to have been to the Chamundi Hills, suffered a heart attack. He was first taken to Apollo Hospital and then was being taken to Jayadeva Hospital, when he passed away on the way.

A three-time MLA, Devaraj had represented Congress from the Chamarajapet constituency in 1989 and 1999. In 2004, he vacated his seat for the then chief minister S M Krishna who won the election.

R V Devaraj.

Post delimitation, Devaraj became an MLA again in 2013 from Chickpet constituency.

He was the chairman of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC). He was also appointed as the Slum Development Board chairman in 2016 during Siddaramaiah's first term as the chief minister.

In 2018 and 2023, Devaraj unsuccessfully contested from the Chickpet constituency against Uday B Garudachar of the BJP. Devaraj's birthday was on December 3.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar expressed his condolence. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Shivakumar recalled Devaraj's contributions to the Chickpet constituency and termed his demise "a big loss" to state politics and Chickpet constituency.

Government of Karnataka
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT ENGINEERING WING
Office of the, Executive Engineer, H & F W D Engg., Division, Fort Road,
Dharwad-580 008 Ph : 0836 -2955800 E-mail : eehfwedvndwd1@gmail.com
No: EE/H&FW Engg./Div/Dwd/Tender/Notification- AAM&PMC/1193/2025-26 Date : 01.12.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, H&FWD, Engg., Division, Dharwad invites tender from contractors registered in KPWD in double cover system as per KTPP Act 1999 & Rules 2000 through KPP Portal for the following works.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Est. Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Class of contractor	Period of completion (including mansoon)	Category of contractor	Remarks
	15th Finance works						
1	Construction of Sub Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Darur in Athani Tq., Belagavi District-SC (Indent No: 895)	**54.86**	**0.55**	Class III & above	6 Months	SC	Call-2
2	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandira at Sulaga, Belagavi Rural Taluk in Belagavi District.	**55.08**	**1.12**	Class III & above	6 Months	General	Call-3
3	Construction of Sub Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Yadgud in Hukkeri Tq., Belagavi District	**55.08**	**1.12**	Class III & above	6 Months	General	Call-3
	PM ABHIM works						
4	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Aravalli, Bailhongal Taluk in Belagavi District.	**55.08**	**0.55**	Class III & above	6 Months	CAT-II (A)	Call-2
	Replacement works						
5	Construction of Sub Center- Ayushman Arogya Mandir(SC-AAM) at Yalgur in Nidagundi Taluk in Vijayapur District	**54.48**	**1.09**	Class III & above	6 Months	General	Call-1
6	54.64 0.55 Class III & above 6 Months SC Call-2Construction of Health and Wellness Center at Alagur in Sindagi Taluk, Vijayapur District	**54.64**	**0.55**	Class III & above	6 Months	SC	Call-2

Sl. No	Description of work	Estimated cost	Approximate PMC cost (Excluding GST)	Earnest Money Deposit	Head of Account	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)	Remarks
	P.M.C.						
1	Project Management Consultancy Services for Construction of 100 beds Neurology and Neurosurgery blocks at DIMHANS Dharwad	**2350.00**	**9.43**	**25,000/-**	Deposit Till the completion of work	Till the completion of work	Call-2

Calendar events : (1) Last date for receipt of tender : **08.12.2025** up to 16.00 hrs
(2) Date of opening of technical bid : **09.12.2025** up to 16.30 hrs
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP platform (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Tenders shall be submitted electronically, EMD, Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested contractors shall register on the KPP platform to participate in this tender.
NOTE : - (1) All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire Tender process, rejection of bids/individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. (2) Henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through newspapers and further changes in respect of this tender notification will be uploaded on KPP portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
H&FWD Engg. Division, Dharwad.

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/930/2025-26

HC clears recruitments under higher SC/ST quota with riders

Quota, from Page 1

Under the amended Act of 2022, reservations for persons belonging to SC and ST communities have been increased from 15% to 17% and 3% to 7%, respectively. The reservation for backward classes continues at 32%.

Mahendra Kumar Mitra, a social activist from Raichur, and others have challenged the enhancement, contending that by virtue of the legislation, the quota for reserved categories exceeds 50% and runs contrary to the law laid down by the Supreme Court.

They also submitted that the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes had not been consulted as required under Articles 338 (9) and 338-A (9) of the Constitution.

In its interim order on November 19, the high court restrained the state from implementing the increase in reservations in terms of the said Act till the next date of hearing and directed the state not to increase the reservation.

The state filed an interlocutory application (IA), submitting that the notifications had been issued for undertaking recruitment, and the process had begun prior to the interim order. If the process that has already begun is interdicted, the state would suffer a shortage of manpower, it added.

The government further argued that on May 1, 2023, the Supreme Court had permitted the state to go ahead with the selection process, directing that all appointment and promotion letters would specifically mention that such appointments and promotions are subject to the final outcome of the proceedings.

Bengaluru to get India's first startup, tech museum by 2027

It will highlight India's history of innovation, science and tech

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru is set to house India's first startup and tech museum by 2027.

Spread across 12,000 sqm within the repurposed Switch Gear factory shed on the NGEF campus in Baiyappanahalli, the museum is being developed as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the Department of Electronics, IT&BT and S&T, and UnboxingBLR.

It will be developed under the Karnataka Technology and Innovation Museum Foundation (KTIMF).

The museum space will be developed in two phases. The first phase is set to go live in 2027, said Prashanth Prakash, co-founder and chairperson of UnboxingBLR, with the second phase expected to take off a year later.

The museum aims to highlight India's history of innovation, science and technology, with Bengaluru at the centre of it all, said Prakash.

"I believe that a lot of economic contributions have materially changed the trajectory of our country in the last 25 years has been tech-led and digital, and central to that are also the entrepreneurial contributions of Bengaluru. We'll be chronicling the last four to five decades of technological advancements. There is no better place than Bengaluru to showcase that," he told *DH*.

In addition to what has transpired, the museum will also provide perspective and insights into what the future holds. A global Request for Proposal (RFP) for the museum's design is expected to go out in the next 30 days. An approximate budget of Rs 100 crore has been allocated to design and build the museum, which has been in the talks for the past three years.

"We're calling on startups and companies from across the country who'd like to be a part of the museum. Leaning heavily on the latest technology, it is going to be an interactive space, so there's lots of room for experimentation," added Prakash.

A board of industry leaders has been set up to aid the launch of the museum.

The board will be chaired by Prakash, and it consists of Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, Managing Director and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Limited Hari Marar, Ajit Abraham Isaac of Quess Corp, Manu Ramchandra Saale of Mercedes-Benz R&D, Vijay Chandru of Strand Life Sciences, and Krishnakumar Natarajan of Mindtree.

The government officials, such as IT&BT secretary Manjula N and IAS Rahul Sharanappa Sankaur, will also be involved in the development of the interactive space.

The museum will be situated near Innoverse, a state government-backed deep-tech incubator initiative. About 11,000 sqm have been allocated for the Innoverse project.

Karnataka unveils new digital e-stamp paper system

e-stamp, from Page 1

"We're introducing digital e-stamp papers across the state," Gowda said.

"Now, citizens can sit at home and purchase digital stamp papers on our Kaveri portal without having to depend on middlemen. This is a step towards empowering citizens," Gowda said.

Citizens can visit *kaveri.karnataka.gov.in* to buy digital e-stamps and avail other services.

"The digital e-stamp papers are entirely online and secure. None can tamper with them," Gowda said.

'Original document can be retrieved on portal'

"A digital e-stamp purchased and uploaded will be with us. So, even if the original document is lost, it can be retrieved on the portal," he said, adding that the government is making all agreements digital. "This is totally paperless. Printouts won't have any value."

With digital stamp papers, Gowda said middlemen will lose their commission.

"However, that doesn't concern citizens. Also, we're not discontinuing e-stamp vendors," he said.

In 2024-25, the government earned Rs 2,320 crore from stamp duties.

'54 classifications'

"There are 54 classifications or types of documents, each having a different stamp duty. Some are Rs 100, some Rs 500 and some based on a percentage of the total value of transaction. The existing e-stamping system is being misused. An e-stamp paper of Rs 100 is being used for a transaction in which the rate should be Rs 500. This is called mis-classification," Gowda explained.

The government piloted digital stamp papers in October 2024, and is now scaling it up.

"Impossible to misuse"

Each digital e-stamp has a unique serial number, a QR code and a digital watermark, which the government said makes it "impossible to misuse".

For digital signatures, a secure link is sent to all executors on their mobile phones. Through this link, each person can digitally sign the document using Aadhaar-based e-sign or Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

"This ensures that the document is signed only by the correct persons," the government said.

Preload cyber safety app: Govt to smartphone makers

Sanchar Saathi, from Page 1

"All manufacturers and importers of mobile handsets that are intended for use in India shall submit compliance reports to the DoT within 120 days from issue of these directions," the direction said.

The government said the app was essential to combat "serious endangerment" of telecom cyber security from duplicate or spoofed IMEI numbers, which enable scams and network misuse.

Sanchar Saathi offers various services, such as blocking a stolen phone, checking mobile connections in your name, and reporting suspected fraud through an option called Chakshu.

Apple, which has previously locked horns with the telecoms regulator over development of a government anti-spam mobile app, is among the companies, such as Samsung, Vivo, Oppo and Xiaomi bound by the new order.

While Apple pre-installs its own proprietary apps on phones, its internal policies prohibit installation of any government or third-party app before sale of a smartphone, a source with direct knowledge of the matter said.

"Apple has historically refused such requests from governments," said Tarun Pathak, a research director at Counterpoint.

"It's likely to seek a middle ground: instead of a mandatory pre-install, they might negotiate and ask for an option to nudge users towards installing the app."

A 14- to 17-digit number unique to each handset, the IMEI, or International Mobile Equipment Identity, is most commonly used to cut off network access for phones reported to have been stolen.

SC asks CBI to probe digital arrest cases

Digital arrest, from Page 1

"The Department of Telecom to submit a proposal for the consideration of this court which can be enforced by the telecom service providers to deter multiple SIM cards in one name or entity," the bench said.

To ensure better coordination with the CBI, the bench asked all states and Union Territories (UTs) to set up a regional and state cybercrime coordination centre to deal with such online offences.

It asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to ensure that the views of various Union ministries, including Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Telecom, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, are put before it to deal with cybercrimes cases.

The top court said all states and UTs and their police agencies along with the CBI are free to freeze bank accounts used in defrauding citizens. At the outset, the bench directed the CBI to probe bank officials, who are hand-in-glove and who help in operating mule accounts with the frauds.

Woman tests positive for KFD

HOSANAGAR (SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT), DHNS: A 50-year old woman tested positive for Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) - also known as Monkey Fever - at Billodi village in the taluk.

The woman had developed headache and fever last week. She was treated at government hospital at Sonale. Later, when she was tested further, she was found to have KFD. She is currently undergoing treatment at Manipal Hospital, said Taluk Health Officer Suresh.

This is the first KFD case reported in the district this year. It is suspected that the infection may have spread through the bite of infected ticks when the woman went to the forest to collect dry leaves.

BANGALORE WEST CITY CORPORATION, ZONE-2
Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd cross, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bangalore-560054.

No. EE/MLM/KPPP/08/2025-26 Date: 01-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal Only) (SINGLE COVER)

Tender for the following work on item rate basis are invited as Standard Bid Documents KW-1 by the Executive Engineer Malleshwaram Division on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC from the registered contractors of Bangalore West City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations may apply through e-procurement portal as per schedule of events
The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee (Non Refundable) as prescribed by E-Procurement Portal (Including Vat) in the form of e-Payment through e-Procurement Platform. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the Registration Certificate valid upto the year of 2025 and shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal Only.

Ward No. / Name of the Work/Estimate Cost Tender Rs. in lakhs / Amount put to tender Rs. in lakhs/ EMD amount in Rs. / Stipulated Period of Completion / Category

1. Ward No. 56 (Old-35), Aramanenagar. Providing Sand for Children equipment at Sankey Lake, Low level park and name board to Ram krishna Hegde park in ward no.56 (Old-35), Aramanenagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 4.09 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,300/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days **Category:** OTHERS.

2. Ward No. 56 (Old-35), Aramanenagar. Construction and Desilting of Culverts in ward no.56 (Old-35), Aramanenagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.22 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,300/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** SC.

3. Ward No. 56 (Old-35), Aramanenagar. Providing street name boards on ward no.56 (Old-35), Aramanenagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.35 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 20,900/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

4. Ward No. 56 (Old-35), Aramanenagar. Improvements and maintenance of Footpath and drain in ward no.56 (Old-35), Aramanenagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.21 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 20,600/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

5. Ward No. 54 (Old-36), Mathikere. Improvements and maintenance of Footpath and drains in Ward No 54, (Old 36) Mathikere. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.21 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,300/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** ST.

6. Ward No. 54 (Old-36), Mathikere. Construction of compound for Burial ground in Ward No-54 (old-36), Mathikere. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.66 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,900/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** SC.

7. Ward No. 54 (Old-36), Mathikere. Providing street name boards in Ward No 54, (Old 36) Mathikere. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.35 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,500/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** CAT-II(A).

8. Ward No. 54 (Old-36), Mathikere. Improvements and Construction of Culverts & Providing concrete to BWSSB road cut portion in Ward No-54 (old-36), Mathikere. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 12.29 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 15,400/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** SC.

9. Ward No. 54 (Old-36), Mathikere. Comprehensive development like Waterproofing of roof, Painting, repairs to all the toilets, painting, plumbing works, grill work and other civil alled works for BBMP building at 8th Main, Mathikere in Ward No-54 (old-36), Mathikere. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.07 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,100/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days. **Category:** SC.

10. Ward No. 54 (Old-36), Mathikere. Comprehensive development like Flooing, Painting, repairs to all the toilets, electric and plumbing works and other civil alled works for samudhya bhavan building at Sanjeevappa colony and other bbbmp building in Ward No-54 (old-36), Mathikere. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 7.31 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 18,300/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

11. Ward No. 55 (Old-45), Malleshwaram. Improvements and maintenance of Footpath and drain in Ward No 55 (Old-45) Malleshwaram. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.21 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 20,600/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

12. Ward No. 55 (Old-45), Malleshwaram. Providing street name boards in ward No 55 (old-45), Malleshwaram. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.35 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,500/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** CAT-II(A).

13. Ward No. 55 (Old-45), Malleshwaram. Improvements and Construction of Culverts & Providing CC patch works for road cut portion in ward No 55 (old-45), Malleshwaram. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 12.29 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 30,800/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

14. Ward No. 55 (Old-45), Malleshwaram. Development of 16th cross, 10th main, malleshwaram circle in ward No 55 (old-45), Malleshwaram. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 4.23 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,600/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

15. Ward No. 57(64) Rajmahal Guttahalli. Emergency Works in ward No.57(64) Rajmahal Guttahalli. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs.4.09 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 5,200/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days. **Category:** SC.

16. Ward No. 57 (Old-64) Rajmahal Guttahali. Repairs and Maintenance to BBMP Existing open gym and childrens equipments in Ward No 57(64) Rajmahal Guttahalli. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 4.11 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,300/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

17. Ward No. 57 (Old-64) Rajmahal Guttahali. Improvements to Drains at Vulnerable points in Ward No 57(64) Rajmahal Guttahalli. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 16.44 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 20,600/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** SC.

18. Ward No. 58 (Old-65) Kadu Malleshwara. Repairs and Maintenance to BBMP Existing open gym and childrens equipments in ward No 58(65) Kadumalleshwara. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 4.11 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 5,200/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days. **Category:** CAT-II(A).

19. Ward No. 58(Old-65) Kadu Malleshwara. Emergency Works in ward No. 58(65) Kadu Malleshwara. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 4.09 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,300/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

20. Ward No. 58 (Old-65) Kadu Malleshwara. Fencing to BBMP Property in ward No 58(65) Kadumalleshwara. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 1.22 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 3,100/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

21. Ward No. 59(66) Subramananyanagar. Emergency Works in ward No.59(66) Subramananyanagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 4.09 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,300/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

22. Ward No. 59 (Old-66) Subramanayanagar. Repairs and Maintanence of Footpath in subramanyanagara Surrounding in Ward No 59(66) Subramanyanagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.21 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 20,600/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

23. Ward No. 59 (Old-66) Subramanayanagar. Repairs and Maintenance to BBMP Existing open gym and childrens equipments in Ward No 59(66) Subramanyanagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 4.11 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,300/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

24. Ward No. 59 (Old-66) Subramanayanagar. Repairs and Maintenance of BBMP building in Ward No59(66) Subramanyanagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 8.06 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 20,200/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

25. Ward No. 59 (Old-66) Subramanayanagar. Improvements to Drains at Valnerable point in subramanyanagara Surrounding in Ward No 59(66) Subramanyanagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 16.44 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 20,600/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** SC.

26. Ward No. 60(76) Gayathrinagar. IEmergency Works in ward No. 60(76) Gayathrinagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 4.09 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 10,300/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 60 days. **Category:** OTHERS.

27. Ward No. 60 (Old-76) Gayathrinagar. Repairs and Maintenance to BBMP Existing open gym and childrens equipments and providing new children equipments in Ward No 60(76) Gayathrinagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 18.57 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 23,300/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** SC.

28. Ward No. 60 (Old-76) Gayathrinagar. Construction of New RCC Drains at Vulnerable point to Gayathrinagar in Ward No 60(76) Gayathrinagar. **Estimate cost Tender** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs, **Amount Put to Tender** Rs. 16.44 Lakhs **EMD Rs.** 20,600/-, **Stipulated Period of Completion :** 90 days. **Category:** CAT-1.

Calendar of events: 1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal: **From 05.12.2025 16.30 Hrs onwards. 2.** Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents : **On 18.12.2025 upto 16:30 Hrs. 3.** Opening of tender: **On 19.12.2025 at 16.30 Hrs**
Bid document may be referred for other terms and conditions and any Corrigendum/Addendum will be published and notified only through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or Contact KPPP/portal

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, Zone-2, BWCC

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tender through KPP Portal for appointment of Architectural Engineering Firm (AEF) for the Work of Construction of Haj Bhavan at Bajpe Village, Mangaluru Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District.
Notification No: CE/KHB/2025-26/SE0316
Dated: 26.11.2025
Last date for submission of Bid is on 04.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM.
For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Tel: 080-22273511. Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/4136/CCL/2025-26 **Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

Karnataka Grameena Bank
General Administration Wing, Head Office Ballari

TENDER NOTICE

Quotations are invited in the prescribed format in a sealed envelope for **Annual Maintenance Contract/Supply/ Installation/ Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance systems** in branches / offices/ATM sites of our Bank from 01-01-2026 to 31-12-2026. For further details please visit our Bank's website https://karnatakagb.bank.in. Interested /empanelled/existing vendors's may go through the tender documents in the Bank's Website and submit their response in time. Amendments if any will be hosted in the Bank's website only. Quotations duly filled in complete with proper seal & signature should be submitted to below address on or before 22-12-2025 up to 5.00 PM.

Sd/- The General Manager
Karnataka Grameena Bank, Head Office: No.32, Sanganakal Road, Gandhinagar Ballari – 583103. **Contact No: 08392-236481, 236480**
To download the application please visit our website https://karnatakagb.bank.in.

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
Kempegowda Bus Station Division

No. KST:KBS:COM-4/775/2025-26 Date: 28.11.2025

Housekeeping E-TENDER NOTIFICATION No-11/2025-26

Applications are invited from interested parties through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from **02.12.2025 to 22.12.2025** for selecting licensees for maintenance of Urinals and Toilets and mechanized / non mechanized Housekeeping services at Kempegowda Bus Station, Devanahalli Trumpet Bus Station and Sports Complex (Toilets & Crew rest Room) at Shanthinagara pertaining to KBS Division, KSRTC for a period of Three (3) years. The selection is based on the Highest bid for entire Bus Station. The e-tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the tender notice can be viewed on the KSRTC website at **ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in**. For further information, please contact the Divisional Office, KSRTC, Kempegowda Bus Station Division. Bangalore-560009, during office hours. Contact phone numbers are 7760990550, 7760990557, 7760990554 and KPP portal helpline numbers are 9240214000, 9240214001, 8068948777, 8046010000, support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
Senior. Divisional Controller
DIPR/CP/4141/Zen/2025-26 **KBS Division, Bengaluru**

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI and GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEP Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru - 560038. Ph: 080-25191039
e-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

Bid No. BMRCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT120 Date: 02-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Maintenance Contract for Artificer works (Petty Repairs) at Peenya Depot in Line-2 section".** The work details can be obtained from the procurement website. The Tender documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 12-01-2026 upto 15:00 hrs.** Further details can be obtained from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Director (O&M)

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering & Mobility Cell, 2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara East 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011.

No. EE/BSCC/TEC/PR/01/2025-26 Date: 01-12-2025

NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, BSCC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BSCC invites applications for the Engagement of Qualified Professionals for the Urban Design Cell for a period of one year extendable for another one year, subjected to periodic performance. This positions aim to strengthen on-going initiatives in Urban Development and Planning within the region. Eligible Candidates are requested to fill the details in **https://bbmp.gov.in/urban-design** and upload relevant documents to support their application.

The available Positions are:

1) Urban Planner - Fellow/Consultants - 1 No.

2) Urban Designer - Fellow/Consultants - 1 No.

3) Urban Transport Planning Expert - Fellow/Consultants - 1 No.

For more information regarding the role, please read the document: Urban Design Cell **(https://bbmp.gov.in/urban-design).**

Time Schedule/Calendar of Events: (1) Start date for submission of application form **: 02-12-2025. (2)** Last date for submission of application form : **15-12-2025.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, BSCC

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kadugodi Division
BECC, Hoodi Main Road, Hoodi, Bengaluru-560048.

No. EE/KG/Zone-1/PR/36/2025-26 Date: 01-12-2025

NOTIFICATION

Application for Engagement of Qualified Professionals for the Urban Design cell at the Bengaluru East City Corporation.

The Executive Engineer, Kadugodi Division, Zone-1, BECC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BECC invites applications for the Engagement of Qualified Professionals for the Urban Design Cell for a period of one year extendable for another one year, subjected to periodic performance. These positions aim to strengthen on-going initiatives in Urban Development and Planning within the region. Eligible Candidates are requested to fill the details in **https://bbmp.gov.in/urban-design** and upload relevant documents to support their application.

The available Positions are:

1) Urban Planner - Fellow/Consultants - 1 No.

2) Urban Designer - Fellow/Consultants - 1 No.

3) Urban Transport Planning Expert - Fellow/Consultants - 1 No.

For more information regarding the role, please read the document: Urban Design Cell **(https://bbmp.gov.in/urban-design).**

Time Schedule/Calendar of Events: (1) Start date for submission of application form **: 02-12-2025. (2)** Last date for submission of application form : **15-12-2025.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Kadugodi Division, Zone-I, BECC

ED notice to Kerala CM in masala bond case stirs row

Agency cites FEMA violations in Rs 466-cr land purchases

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

MISUSE OF FUNDS

- Notices to CM Pinarayi Vijayan, ex-finance minister Thomas Isaac
- Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board raised Rs 2,150 crore in 2019 via rupee-denominated bonds on London & Singapore exchanges
- CPM alleges misuse of central agencies; Cong claims ploy to mask CPM-BJP nexus

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and two others have been served show-cause notices by the adjudication wing of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with suspected violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) in the utilisation of funds raised through masala bonds by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB).

Notices were also issued to former finance minister and CPM leader Thomas Isaac and KIIFB chief executive officer KM Abraham. Issued on November 12, the notices seek a response within 30 days.

Pinarayi Vijayan

The development has triggered a political row, with the CPM alleging that it is yet another instance of the BJP-led central government misusing agencies against non-BJP-ruled states. Congress leaders, meanwhile, claimed the ED notices were part of a ploy to cover up a CPM-BJP nexus in the Kerala local body polls and to divert attention from the ongoing probe into the Sabarimala gold heist, in which CPM leaders are accused.

According to the show-cause notice, KIIFB violated FEMA rules in connection with Rs 466.91 crore that was used for land purchases. The notices were issued on the basis of an ED report citing irregularities in the use of funds raised through masala bonds on the London and Singapore stock exchanges for land purchases.

In 2019, KIIFB had issued masala bonds (rupee-denominated bonds sold outside India) to raise Rs 2,150 crore. Vijayan remains chairman of KIIFB, while Thomas Isaac serves as vice chairman.

The CM, currently on a visit to the UAE, has yet to comment on the development. Isaac said the masala bonds were issued with the nod of the Reserve Bank of India and described the ED's move as a political ploy timed with Kerala's local body polls.

KIIFB chief executive officer Abraham added in a statement that the land was purchased for infrastructure development and therefore could not be considered a violation of masala bond norms.

Opposition leader VD Satheesan said that although the party had earlier flagged corruption in connection with the masala bond, the latest move was nothing more than a political ploy. "Action by central agencies against the Kerala CM and those close to him has been limited to issuing notices, whereas other political opponents of the BJP are being hounded," he said.

Winter bites early; Central India braces for longer cold waves

Weak La Niña conditions are expected to continue between December and February

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chilly winter is ahead for almost the entire Central India, stretching up to North-interior Karnataka and parts of Northwest India, where not only will the temperature drop substantially but the number of cold-wave days will also double between December and February, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

The weatherman said India would be experiencing a colder-than-usual winter as the number of cold-wave days would double for central and northwestern states, while for North-interior Karnataka, the minimum and maximum temperatures would be below normal.

"Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, UP, Punjab, Haryana, and Maharashtra may experience four to five extra cold-wave days between December and February in addition to the four to six cold-wave days they usually face every year in these three months," said IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra.

Commuters ride along a fog-covered road as low visibility persists in Nadia, West Bengal, on Monday. PTI

Winter has set in early this year, with the season's first cold-wave conditions occurring in pockets of Northeast Rajasthan, South Haryana, North Madhya Pradesh, South UP, and North Chhattisgarh between November 8 and 18, and in North-interior Maharashtra between November 15 and 20.

Mohapatra said even though the Himalayas were largely shielding India from the polar vortex, it had a small role in the early onset of winter.

Another cold-wave spell was expected in parts of Northwest and Central India from December 3 to 5, he said.

According to the IMD, a cold wave is declared when the temperature departure from normal is -4.5 to -6.4 degrees Celsius. If the departure is more than -6.4 degrees Celsius, it's described as a severe cold wave.

A cold wave is also declared when the minimum temperature dips below 4 degrees Celsius in the plains for two consecutive days. A dip below 2 degrees Celsius indicates a severe cold wave.

The IMD chief said weak La Niña conditions were expected to continue between December and February.

La Niña refers to the large-scale cooling of ocean-surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, coupled with changes in tropical atmospheric circulation such as winds, pressure, and rainfall. It is generally associated with intense and prolonged rain in the monsoon season in India and colder-than-usual winters, particularly in the northern regions.

Most parts of the country — except for Southeast peninsular India, the northeastern states, and the extreme northwest — recorded normal to below-normal temperatures in November.

Security officials during a raid in Pulwama on Monday. PTI

NIA raids eight sites in Kashmir over Red Fort blast

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday conducted a major coordinated crackdown in the Kashmir Valley, raiding eight locations across South Kashmir in connection with its probe into the recent Red Fort car blast.

Local reports said NIA teams backed by the J&K Police and paramilitary forces struck in the Pulwama, Shopian, and Kulgam districts in the early hours of Monday, targeting the homes of key suspects linked to what is being described as a "white-collar terror" module.

Among the addresses searched were those of Moulvi Irfan Ahmad Wagay in Shopian, and doctors Adeel Ahmad Rather and Muzamil Shakeel, as well as Amir Rashid in Pulwama — all already arrested in the case.

Investigators say Wagay played a central role in recruiting and radicalising educated professionals — including medical practitioners — for the terror network, allegedly linked to banned outfits and cross-region conspiracy.

The raids aimed to recover incriminating material and digital evidence that could expand the list of suspects and uncover further links.

The operation came against the backdrop of a blast near Delhi's Red Fort on November 10, when a car exploded in a heavily crowded area, killing at least 15 people.

The car was reportedly driven by Dr Umar Nabi from Pulwama. Authorities described the incident as a terror strike orchestrated by a complex network of professionals.

So far, at least six suspects — including Wagay, Adeel, Muzamil and another accused, Jasir Bilal Wani — have been arrested in connection with the blast.

Officials have indicated that the NIA's continuing searches might help uncover the full extent of the network, identify facilitators, trace funding, and reconstruct the recruitment and planning chain.

Monday's raids highlighted a shift in security focus: from traditional militants to "white-collar" terror modules.

CBI arrests suspect in 1989 Rubaiya kidnapping case

CASE FILE

- Rubaiyya Sayeed, daughter of then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, was kidnapped in 1989 by the banned JKLF.
- Accused Shafat Ahmed Shangloo, carrying a Rs 10 lakh reward, is alleged to be a close confidant of JKLF chief Yasin Malik.
- Sayeed was released five days later after the V P Singh government – supported by the BJP – freed five terrorists in exchange.
- Now living in Tamil Nadu, Sayeed is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over the case in 1990.

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested Shafat Ahmad Shungloo, a Srinagar resident, in connection with the December 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed.

Shungloo was detained at Police Station Nishat as part of the agency's ongoing proceedings in the case, which continues before the designated TADA court.

"The said accused Shangloo conspired with Yasin Malik and others in committing a crime under various sections of Ranbir Penal Code and TADA Act during the Year 1989.

"The absconder is carrying a reward of Rs. 10 lakh on his head. He will be produced before the TADA Court Jammu, within the stipulated time as per law," the CBI said in a statement.

Rubaiya, daughter of the then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, was abducted on December 8, 1989 by militants of the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) while returning from Lal Ded maternity hospital in Srinagar.

Her kidnappers demanded the release of five jailed JKLF militants, and the VP Singh-led government agreed. The hostage exchange on December 13 is widely regarded as a major turning point that emboldened militant groups, accelerated the rise of insurgency in Kashmir and deepened public distrust in political institutions.

Among the key accused in the case is Yasin Malik, the JKLF chief who was then a prominent figure in the separatist militant movement. Malik, who later renounced violence and moved into separatist politics, is currently serving a life sentence after his 2022 conviction in a terror-funding case by a Delhi court.

In the Rubaiya kidnapping trial, Malik faces charges including criminal conspiracy and kidnapping. He has repeatedly refused to contest the charges, choosing not to engage counsel and informing the court that he would not challenge the evidence against him.

Over the years, the CBI has questioned and produced several former JKLF members before the court as part of its renewed effort to bring the decades-old trial to a conclusion.

Surprise rains drench Chennai as cyclone Ditwah weakens

CHENNAI, DHNS: After a cold Sunday, people of this metropolis and three neighbouring districts woke up to a wet Monday and experienced heavy rains through the day, even as Cyclone Ditwah weakened into a Deep Depression.

Heavy rains across the city and in Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur, and Chengalpattu took everyone by surprise as the weatherman predicted there wouldn't be much rain from the cyclonic storm on Monday.

Cyclone Ditwah, which wreaked havoc in Sri Lanka, was forecast to bring heavy to very rainfall in coastal Tamil Nadu on November 30. However, the forecast failed with rain missing the region on Sunday, but intense spells of rain began lashing the city in the wee hours of Monday.

Chennai received about 6 cm of rainfall between 8.30 am and 2 pm, with Ennore in north Chennai alone recording about 12.9 cm of rainfall, the highest in the city.

Several localities in north Chennai received over 10 cm of rainfall in about six hours, leading to waterlogging and inundation in a few low-lying areas, including the business district of T Nagar. Since district administrations did not declare a holiday, a majority of the schools functioned on Monday despite the rains causing inconvenience to students, especially those in primary and middle schools.

PM-led panel to meet on Dec 10 for CIC hiring, Centre tells SC

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Centre on Monday informed the Supreme Court that the prime minister-led panel is likely to meet on December 10 to select and recommend names for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and information commissioners of the Central Information Commission (CIC).

A bench, which was hearing a plea seeking filling of vacant posts of CIC and state information commissions, was told by Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, that the meeting has been fixed and notice for it has been sent to the members of the panel. Under Section 12 (3) of the Right to Information Act, the PM is the chairperson of the committee, which also comprises the LoP and a Union minister nominated by the PM, that selects and recommends the names for appointment as CIC.

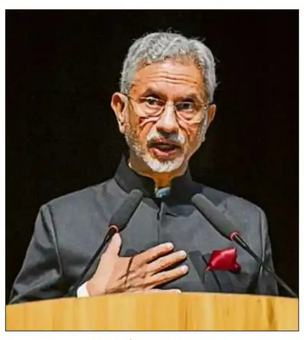
India calls for arming bioweapon convention with compliance system

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Bioterrorism is no longer a distant possibility, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday, calling for modernisation of the 50-year-old Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which still lacks basic institutional structures, a compliance system, a permanent technical body, or a tracking mechanism for new scientific developments.

The minister was speaking at a conference in New Delhi on '50 Years of the Biological Weapons Convention: Strengthening Biosecurity for the Global South'.

"Misuse" of developments in biological science by "non-state actors" is "no longer a distant possibility," Jaishankar said, underlining that the international community must be adequately prepared to deal with it. "Yet the BWC still lacks basic institutional structures. It has no compliance system, no permanent technical body, and no mechanism to track new scientific developments. These gaps must be bridged to strengthen confidence," he said.



S Jaishankar

"India has consistently called for stronger compliance measures within BWC, including verification designed for today's world," Jaishankar said, adding, "India supports international cooperation and assistance enabling exchange of materials and equipment for peaceful use. We have further called for a systematic review of scientific and technological developments so that governance does indeed keep pace with innovation," he said.

The scientific tools are evolving faster than global rules, he said.

"We have long highlighted concerns relating to advancements in science and technology that have implications for international security and disarmament through annual resolutions in the UN General Assembly First Committee," he said.

"For 50 years, BWC has stood by one simple idea: that humanity rejects disease as a weapon. But norms survive only when nations renew them. The next 50 years will demand concerted action. We must modernise the Convention; we must keep pace with science and strengthen global capacity so that all countries can detect, prevent, and respond to biological risks. India stands ready," Jaishankar said.

Odisha varsity student found dead in hostel room, third case this year

GRAVE CONCERN

- Third such incident in less than a year. Earlier, two female Nepalese students were found hanging in their hostel rooms.
- Preliminary inquiry points to friendship of the deceased student with a woman of the same age based in Chhattisgarh.

BHUBANESWAR, PTI: The body of a first-year B Tech student of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) was found hanging in his hostel room here, the third such incident in less than a year, police said on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Rahul Yadav (18), a Computer Science student, who hailed from Raipur in Chhattisgarh.

Police said they are investigating the incident from all angles, but did not categorise it as a case of suicide.

Earlier, two female Nepalese students were found hanging in their hostel rooms on the KIIT campus on February 16 and May 1, respectively.

ACP Sonal Singh Parmar said the latest incident had taken place on Sunday, and the body was recovered by the personnel of Infocity Police Station.

Preliminary inquiry points to friendship of the deceased student with "a woman of the same age based in Chhattisgarh", police said, adding, complications in the relationship might have led to differences between them.

Based on a complaint by Yadav's mother, a case has been registered at Infocity Police Station against the woman, her father, mother and brother under various sections of the BNS, including 108, which deals with abetment of suicide, police said.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to 24/7 helplines: 1800-599-0019 or 104 for help)

GULBARGA UNIVERSITY, KALABURGAI 585106
VISION GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY(VGST)
Jnana Ganga, Kalaburagi – 585 106, Karnataka, India.

GUK/DAE/2025-26/817(b) Dated:28/11 /2025

E-tender Notification

The undersigned invites e-tender from eligible tenderers for the Supply, installation, training and commissioning of "CST Studio Suite": Electromagnetic (EM) Simulation software. Interested suppliers may contact **Principal Investigator (PI), VGST KFIST L1 project, Department of Applied Electronics,** Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi (GUK). For detailed specifications, terms & conditions log onto **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date for receipt of tender is 15/12/2025 and Date of opening Tender is 18/12/2025.

Sd/- REGISTRAR
Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat Haveri
Office of the District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Haveri
#21, 'B' Block District Administration Building, Devagiri
E-mail:dhohaveri@gmail.com Ph: 08375-249049 Fax :08375-249009:9449843054

REF: DHFWO/Sup /14/2025-26 Date: 01/12/2025

E- RETENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Inviting Tender for SUPPLY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS TO HAVERI DISTRICT HEALTH INSTITUTIONS UNDER ZP DEVLOPMENT FUND through E- Procurement.

Ref: Approval note form Chief Executive Officer, ZP Haveri dated: 27/11/2025

With reference to the above seated subjected E-tender called in two bid system for SUPPLY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS TO HAVERI DISTRICT HEALTH INSTITUTIONS UNDER ZP DEVLOPMENT FUND The manual bids shall not be accepted. The estimated cost for one year will be about Rs. 89.00 Lakhs (Eighty nine Lakhs). The amount of EMD is Rs. 1.78 Lakhs (One lakh seventy eight thousand). Tender Document can be downloaded from (www.kppp.karanataka.gov.in) as per schedule given here under:-

Sl No	Tender Event Description	Schedule of Date & Time
1	Tender No	DHFWS/2025-26/IND1813/CALL-2
2	Availability of online Tender Document in Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	02/12/2025 to 11/12/2025 up to 16.00Hrs
3	Last date for receiving queries	05/12/2025 up to 17.00 Hrs
4	Last date for submission of online Tenders on Public Procurement Portal	11/12/2025 up to 16.30 Hrs
5	Sample Submission/Demonstration of the materials Date	Will intimate later.
6	Meeting Place, Date &Time for **Submitted Samples Inspection/ Verification** by" Tender Samples Verification Committee".	Office of DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE HAVERI, Devagiri ,Date and time will intimate later.
7	Opening of Technical Tender on the Public Procurement Portal	12/12/2025 at 16.30 Hrs
8	Opening of Financial Tender on the Public Procurement Portal	Tentatively on 15/12/2025 at 11.00Hrs
9	Amount Put to Tender	Rs.89.00Lakhs
10	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount	Rs 1,78,000 /- Payable as provided in Clause 12 of ITT

Sd/-
District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Haveri

dipr/hvr/dipo/535/2025-26

Directorate of Economics and Statistics,
1st Gate, 7th Floor, M. S. Building,
Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560 001

INVITATION FOR e-PROCUREMENT BID FOR THE SUPPLY OF TABLET PERSONAL COMPUTER TO THE DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS AND DISTRICT STATISTICAL OFFICES UNDER E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM (A) SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Tender Reference: Notification No. DES/14/Act-Stores/2025-26 (KPP Portal Tender Reference Number: DES/2024-25/IND0002) Dt: 01.12.2025
Commencement of download of e-tender forms from website: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: 01.12.2025**
Time & date of Pre-Bid Meeting: **05.12.2025 at 11.30 a.m.**
Product Demonstration: **09.12.2025 at 3.00 p.m.**
Last Date for Queries on or before: **15.12.2025 at 5.30 p.m.**
Last date and time for uploading of tender: **20.12.2025 at 5.30 p.m.**
Opening of Technical Bid: **22.12.2025 at 11.00 a.m.**
Opening of Financial Bid: **24.12.2025 at 12.00 Noon**
EMD Amount: **Rs.1,66,500/-.**
Approximate Project Amount: **Rs.1,11,00,000/-**
Venue of opening of tenders & Address for communication contact **O/o Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, 1 Gate, 7th Floor, M. S. Building, Bangalore. Contact No.: 080-22353849.**

Sd/- Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO4137/25-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

KPTCL invites bids for the following:

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

No: CEE/Tr(Op)ZB/SEE(O)/AEE-4/F-356(3)/25-26/7485 Date:27.11.2025

(1) Bid enquiry No:KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/2025-26/03/C-Type Wedge Connectors for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of C-Type Wedge Connectors of various sizes for replacing weak terminal and clamps at various 220/66/11kV and 66/11kV sub-stations coming under (Operation) Division Kolar, Transmission (Operation) Zone, Bengaluru conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications, F.O.R.D. at Store/site basis, including insurance and transportation.

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

No: CEE/Tr(Op)ZB/SEE(O)/AE-2/BIAL/2025-26/7590-91 Date:28.11.2025

(2) Bid enquiry No:KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/PTK-11 (CALL-2) for "Procurement of various materials for the work of erection of additional 11kV breakers at **66/11kV Nandagudi S/s** coming under Operations Division, BIAL BEGUR on Partial Turnkey Basis including supply of all matching materials/equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning".

The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging into **Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) Portal website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **03.12.2025 for Sl.No. (1) and 05.12.2025 for Sl.No. (2)**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec.), Transmission(Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Anandrao Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Growth at 8% signals strong momentum

The 8.2% growth registered by the economy in the July-September quarter is beyond expectations and projections. It is the highest growth rate achieved in the last six quarters, and much higher than the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projection of 7%. The consensus target of economists was about 7%. The RBI had also projected 6.3% growth in the second half, as steep United States tariffs began hitting exports and the production of export items. Growth in the corresponding quarter last year was 5.6%, and even accounting for the lower base, the performance in the second quarter is remarkable. The first quarter had recorded a 7.8% growth, and taken together, growth in the first half of this financial year stands at 8%.

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the secondary sector grew by 8.1% and the tertiary sector by 9.2%. Manufacturing grew at a six-quarter high of 9.1%, up from 7.7% in the last quarter. Growth was aided by a low base effect, but there was genuine growth too. This was followed by the construction sector at 7.2%. Financial, real estate, and professional services topped the tertiary sector, posting a nine-quarter high 10.2% growth. Private final consumption expenditure, which contributes about 60% of the GDP, posted a 7.9% growth rate as against 6.4% in the same quarter last year. Agriculture slowed to 3.5% from the previous 4.1%, but rural demand actually improved. Overall growth is particularly encouraging because the rise in consumption demand caused by the cut in GST rates is yet to be fully reflected in the growth figures.

Real GDP growth was strong, but nominal GDP lagged, raising concerns

There are, however, concerns and caveats too. There is continuing uncertainty about the trade deal with the US, though there are indications that it may be signed soon. The global trade outlook is weak. While the real GDP rate, which is adjusted for inflation, is higher than expected, the comparatively low nominal GDP rate is a matter of concern. It has also been pointed out that a recent IMF report accorded a low grade to India's national accounts statistics. That casts a shadow on the reliability of the figures relating to economic growth. Festival demand clearly gave a boost to the growth figures, but it cannot be expected to continue. Private capital investment has still not taken off, and without that, there cannot be sustainable growth. So, the government's revision of the full year growth estimate to '7 per cent or higher' may be too optimistic.

Cosmetic fixes will not help school education

The Karnataka government's decision to incentivise teachers in government schools to improve SSLC results and increase student enrolment is a welcome shift from a system long reliant on reprimand and punitive action. Recognising and rewarding good performance is essential to motivate teachers, especially when many work under challenging circumstances with limited support. Yet it only scratches the surface of what ails the state's public education system. The most glaring is the 60,000-plus teacher vacancies that have accumulated over the years. The recent decision to appoint 51,000 guest teachers may temporarily plug the gap, but it raises a troubling question: why was such a massive shortage allowed to fester until it became a crisis? Incentives cannot substitute for the absence of qualified, permanent teachers in thousands of classrooms.

This year's SSLC results — a pass percentage of 62.34% — highlight deeper structural issues. In 2024, stricter anti-malpractice measures, such as CCTV webcasting, initially pushed the pass rate down to 54%, only for it to climb to 73.4% after the generous distribution of grace marks. In hindsight, the previous year's 83.89% now looks misleading. Karnataka cannot build a credible education system on cameras, grace marks, and tinkering with pass percentages. Nor will reducing the pass mark from 35% to 33% address the learning deficit. The bigger picture demands attention. The state allocates only 10-12% of its Budget to education — far short of the recommended 15% to 20%. Most of this goes towards salaries, leaving little for infrastructure, training, or pedagogical reforms.

Rewarding teachers helps, but vacancies hurt schools more

Government schools will produce better students only when classrooms are provided with the required resources, schools are equipped with proper laboratories, and teacher quality is continuously assessed and upgraded. Child-wise tracking of learning outcomes must become standard practice. The success of Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) schools run by the social welfare department offers a powerful lesson. With a 91% pass rate and top state ranks, these schools prove that when the most marginalised sections are given the best education, excellence follows. If the KREIS can achieve this with disadvantaged children, why can't the education department replicate this model more broadly? For far too long, the state has oscillated between crisis management and cosmetic fixes. Incentives for teachers are a step forward, but Karnataka needs nothing less than a structural overhaul. A society that aspires to progress must ensure that its poorest children receive not just schooling, but the highest quality of education.

LABOUR CODES

Aim for a future-ready world of work

The codes create space to measure not just job numbers but the quality of work — wages, security, safety, and voice

SAMAR VERMA AND ANNAPOORNA RAVICHANDER

India's labour reform story has entered a decisive new phase. With the government now enforcing the four consolidated labour codes, the country has moved from debating change to implementing one of the most significant workforce overhauls since Independence.

These codes replace 29 older laws and aim to simplify compliance, ensure minimum wages for all workers, and extend social security to include gig and platform workers. They also introduce provisions such as appointment letters for every employee, gratuity for fixed-term workers after a year, free annual health check-ups for workers above 40, and clearer safety norms.

Industry bodies have welcomed the move as a 'historic milestone' that modernises India's labour framework, aligns it with global standards and strengthens the foundation for productivity and job creation. The reforms have also drawn international attention.

By implementing the codes, India has shifted the labour reform debate into a new context. The unified architecture now allows the country to tackle a deeper challenge: shaping the future of work so that growth, technology, and climate transitions lead to productive, protected, and dignified livelihoods for all.

Over the last decade, India has added millions of jobs and reduced unemployment, especially after the pandemic. Yet much of this employment remains informal, low-paid, and vulnerable. Most workers still lack written contracts, social security, or predictable incomes, particularly in small enterprises and informal services.

The new labour codes offer an opportunity to move beyond headline job numbers and focus on the 'quality of work' — advocated by the ILO and Indian researchers. This means assessing whether workers receive the statutory floor wage, enjoy stable employment, are covered by social security, work reasonable hours under safe conditions, and have access to grievance redress and representation.

Going forward, the emerging labour architecture could be used to regularly publish 'quality of work dashboards' at national and state levels, enabling evidence-based policy conversations.

India's labour market is no longer divided neatly into formal and informal segments. Workers move along a continuum that includes self-employment, casual work, fixed-term contracts, platform-mediated tasks, and traditional wages.

For the first time, the new codes formally recognise gig and platform work, opening space for appropriate social protection frameworks in line with international thinking.

By consolidating definitions and clarifying responsibilities, the codes create a common language for policymakers, firms, and workers to discuss this continuum. Over time, this can help raise the floor of protections across all work arrangements, including the 'missing middle' of India's small and medium

enterprises, without disrupting entrepreneurial dynamism.

The next frontier

A key aspect of the reforms is the Code on Social Security, which expands coverage of pensions, insurance, and other benefits to include gig workers and inter-state migrant workers.

This aligns with global trends. The World Economic Forum, the ILO, and others have noted that as technology reshapes jobs and as economies face climate-related shocks, societies will need universal and portable social protection — entitlements that follow workers across sectors, locations, and employment types.

India's new framework is well positioned to move in this direction. As rules and schemes are notified, there is scope for three initiatives: strengthening contributory and tax-funded schemes so no worker is left outside a minimum social protection floor; using digital platforms such as registration portals and portable benefit accounts to ease access, especially for informal, gig and migrant workers, and; encouraging co-contributions from employers, platforms, and workers to support competitiveness while expanding coverage.

Rather than treating social security purely as a safety net, India can increasingly view it as a foundation that enables workers to take risks, invest in skills, and move to more productive roles.

The WEF's *Future of Jobs Report* estimates a large share of the global workforce will need reskilling or upskilling by 2030. India's experience shows that while services and technology-intensive sectors have powered growth, access to the skills needed to join them remains uneven.

The NITI Aayog has highlighted the job-creating potential of sectors such as tourism, logistics, healthcare, education, and modern business services, if productivity and skill levels rise. The labour codes have come when these sectors are poised for expansion.

Although the codes focus on wages, social security, safety, and industrial relations, they sit alongside a range of skilling initiatives: from ITI reforms to apprenticeship schemes to industry-led academies. Over time, India can integrate these into a lifelong learning ecosystem: workers accessing modular, stackable training across their careers, employers investing in continuous upskilling, and public programmes and CSR efforts targeting youth and vulnerable workers.

Labour is a concurrent subject, and as the codes are implemented, states will have scope for innovation within the broad national framework.

The codes include provisions to boost women's participation, such as enabling night shifts with safeguards, and mandating equal pay. Combined with investments in childcare, safe transport, and targeted skilling, these measures could help more women turn educational gains into sustained labour-force participation.

Social dialogue among government, employers, and workers will remain vital. By consolidating laws into a cleaner, modern structure, the codes make such dialogue easier, ensuring implementation aligns with the twin goals of competitiveness and decent work.

India has taken a major step towards a simpler, more coherent, and future-oriented labour regime. A modern framework is now in place — one that recognises new forms of work, supports investment, and extends protections more widely.

The challenge is to use this new framework to improve the quality of work, to expand social protection, and ensure that the gains of growth, technology, and climate action translate into secure, dignified livelihoods.

If achieved, the four labour codes will be remembered not just as a legal consolidation, but as the foundation of a future-ready world of work where the risks of transition are equitably shared among all stakeholders.

(Samar is a senior economist and policy professional. Annapoorna is a Bengaluru-based communication specialist and trainer)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Defeated by the fine print

When my desire for a prize met a postman, the cost of winning was prohibitive

RAJNISH SHARMA

The US President, Donald Trump, openly tried to secure a Nobel Peace Prize this year, but to no avail. Whether he is a genuine peace broker remains debatable. Some twenty-five years ago, when a maestro in the world of music was awarded the Bharat Ratna, it was reported that the renowned classical vocalist, the late Pandit Jasraj, was peeved at being overlooked for the country's highest civilian honour.

As for me, with an utterly mediocre calibre in every field, I have never received any prize in my life, barring a few medals for completing various half-marathons around the time of my retirement – and I am quite content with that. But once, when I was in pre-engineering, the thought of not winning a single prize, while everyone around me seemed to have one for academics, sports or extra-curricular activities, struck me deeply. That is when the ordeal began.

In those days, Hindi newspapers and assorted magazines carried an advertisement screaming, *Inaam Jeetiye*, where one had to fill the smaller squares of a large square with numbers so that the sum of each horizontal row and vertical column came to the same number, X. The ad included an example where the total differed slightly from X as a hint. A transistor radio was assured as a prize if one filled the grid correctly. Overpowered by the desire to win something, I completed the square and posted it to the advertising company.

Some eight or ten days later, when I saw the postman approaching our house, I felt a strange tingling of excitement. He said there was a VPP in my name. I went forward, expecting to sign his register, but he insisted the parcel would be delivered only if I paid Rs 70. Crestfallen, I asked him to return the next day. I immediately checked the advertisement and was dismayed to find, in the fine print, that winner had to bear half the cost of the transistor.

When my father returned from the office, I narrated the incident. He said he would arrange the money, provided the transistor was a Murphy or Philips and had three bands.

I hurried to consult my classmates in the neighbourhood. They all dissuaded me from paying. One of them had won a similar "prize"—a single-band, local-brand transistor—and felt thoroughly duped. I told my father.

When the postman came again, I told him, dejectedly, that I did not want the VPP. And so my strong desire to win a prize during my student days was shattered. When my articles see the light of day, they more than compensate for that long-lost prize, especially as I approach my seventies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Strengthen institutional safeguards

Apropos 'Claim on Bengaluru forest land appalling' (Dec 1), it is shocking to note that the revenue department remained oblivious to the manipulation by a private individual seeking to insert his name into the revenue records of nearly 517 acres of reserved forest land in South Kengeri, valued at an extraordinary Rs 27,000 crore. Equally disturbing is the alacrity with which the Karnataka High Court disposed of the writ petition and directed that this vast forest tract be transferred to the petitioner. Such an outcome raises serious questions about the scrutiny, coordination and vigilance of the departments entrusted with safeguarding public land. The failure of portions of the government machinery to detect the irregularity in time reinforces concerns over internal collusion and systemic loopholes. Yet, there is some relief that the matter has now come to light, attracting public attention and prompting urgent corrective action. With timely intervention, the land can still be protected, and the incident should serve as a wake-up call to strengthen institutional safeguards against such brazen attempts to erode Karnataka's natural assets.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Resolve internal conflict

The crisis in Karnataka Congress, evidently driven by personality clashes, must be resolved sooner rather than later, as it is obstructing governance. It should also be noted that, for its own sake, the Congress Party must resolve its internal issues, given its dismal electoral performance across the country. The party is unable to withstand the onslaught of the all-powerful BJP and its allies, who are waiting for an opportune moment to strike. To remain a strong opposition party, the Congress must work cohesively.
V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Reimagine higher ed

Apropos 'Demand for MBA, MCA & MTech courses declining' (Nov 28), the authorities concerned must take appropriate measures to make suitable changes to the curriculum and ensure that students are equipped with the skills needed to work in a rapidly changing workplace. Students should be encouraged to choose a postgraduate degree aligning with their skills and interests.
A K Shariff, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

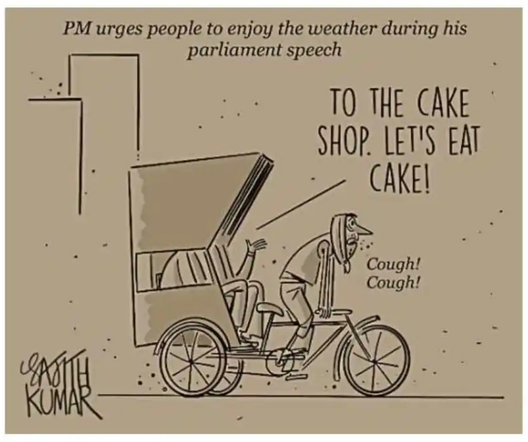
SIR is not new. The same kind of situation was there in Assam, thousands had died. People from outside intervene here, and play a role in government formation. Tell me, this way, whether the sovereignty of the country will be intact? They are against the constitution, sovereignty of the country, that's why they oppose it.

Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union Minister

It's so easy for propaganda to work, and dissent to be mocked.

Harold Pinter

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Fast-track courts may not be the cure

The Bill constrains judicial reforms to mere questions of speed and efficiency

LEAH VERGHESE AND LAKSHMI MENON

The Karnataka District Judiciary Reforms Bill 2025 is the most recent attempt at judicial reform in the state. In 2024, the legislature enacted amendments to the Civil Procedure Code (CPC), introducing case management hearings in district courts, before which the high court had issued rules allowing email and courier use to serve notice to parties.

This Bill seeks to establish fast-track courts (FTC), mandates case completion timelines for the FTCs, and introduces artificial intelligence (AI) for automating assistive functions inside courts. This article examines whether the Bill can address structural causes of delay, or merely provides temporary band-aids.

The Bill earmarks land disputes, especially those involving farmers, cases where the parties are 'unemployed or job-deprived people', and cases pending beyond five years (based on directions from the high court or recommendation from the district judge) for the FTCs. This proposal raises several questions.

First, why are the FTCs positioned as the solution for case backlogs? The Bill does not specify how the FTCs will tackle the delay. As per the National Judicial Data Grid, 33.7% civil suits in Karnataka's trial courts are stuck at witness examinations, and 20% at the stage of service of notice. These delays arise from process inefficiencies, not from a shortage of courts. Witness examinations drag on because outstation witnesses must travel long distances to reach courts. Courts routinely grant adjournments to avoid depriving parties of the opportunity to present evidence. Minor errors in addresses result in notices/summons going undelivered to witnesses and respondents/defendants.

The CPC amendments, and the high court's rules for serving notice through e-mail and courier in civil cases are a welcome step. However, without broader process reforms like adherence to case management schedules and process re-engineering, the FTCs will have little effect.

Second, why should specific case types be selected for fast-tracking? Special courts serve a purpose in contexts like POCSO. But the Bill's reasons for fast-tracking the identified case/litigant types remain unclear. The reasons for delay vary the case types identified by the Bill. By clubbing several case/litigant types with varying requirements, the FTCs replicate issues plaguing regular courts.

Timeline and incentives for judges

The Bill requires the FTCs to resolve cases within 12 months. Statutory timelines need to be based on empirical evidence. In 2025, ₹63% cases (as on November 20) in Karnataka took more than one year for disposal, thus demonstrating the infeasibility of the time limit.

Previously, the imposition of such timelines has failed. For example, POCSO mandates the same timeline. A 2022 report found that POCSO courts on average took 510 days for disposal, and evidence took 183 days. A 2018 study found that 72% of POCSO cases in Karnataka remained pending for over a year. According to a 2019 report, more than 60% of civil cases in each district court across Bengaluru Rural remained pending for over two years, with land acquisition cases reporting an average of 6.5 years.

Court workloads vary greatly with geographic differences, and timelines cannot be fixed uniformly across the state. Within Bengaluru Rural, one court complex had an average pendency of 5.5 years for civil cases, while another complex had an average of 1.5 years.

The Bill rewards judges with adjournment rates of below 10%, placing the burden of reducing delays on them. This pressurises judges to dispose of many cases within possibly unrealistic timeframes, which may affect the quality of hearings. District judges already face multiple challenges, and this pressure will only intensify existing burdens.

Institutionalising AI

The Bill enables AI automation of scrutiny of pleadings, case scheduling, legal research, transcription, and other assistive functions, while prohibiting AI use that can influence case outcomes. It outlines safeguards, including an expert committee, a digital audit trail, and compliance with data privacy standards laid down by the high court.

AI safeguards are positive developments if the high court takes sufficient steps towards prescribing them, especially given the danger of shadow use of AI by judges and staff to resolve cases quickly.

The continued prioritisation of district court reforms and the provision of AI safeguards are necessary measures for access to justice. However, the Bill constrains judicial reforms to mere questions of speed and efficiency. Anxieties over judicial delay have resulted in a quest for 'quick-fixes', and AI is its latest silver bullet.

Unfortunately, issues of delay have no single fix. These are systemic issues requiring rigorous evidence, careful deliberation, and political will. Reforms for the district judiciary must focus on creating an administrative cadre to handle administrative stages, process redesigning, and updated case management rules for effective change.

(Leah is Research Manager, and Lakshmi is Research Consultant, DAKSH Society)

Why India must take its antipoverty programmes seriously

M V SRIDHARA

Despite long-standing theoretical and 'reformist' criticism, India's antipoverty programmes – often discounted or dismissed – may, in fact, be real pathways to development and social progress. Though frequently accused of being contemptible and unproductive economic doles, these programmes deeply touch the lives of the poor in profound ways. They can serve as effective instruments for the irreversible reduction of poverty and for enhancing production and productivity at the grassroots, as well as facilitating manpower growth and dispersal. But this requires political and official seriousness, persistence and sustained support. Sporadic pulpit pronouncements from the top must give way to constant attention. Each antipoverty programme demands deliberate policy action to strengthen backward and forward linkages and ensure last-mile delivery. Yet because such policy action attracts little publicity, political leaders often lose interest and persistent seriousness after the initial photo-op euphoria; they remain congenitally unprepared for unostentatious work that benefits the public and the poor.

Take the case of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), in operation since 2005-2006 under an Act of Parliament. This antipoverty programme focuses on providing rural employment—including for women—and on bolstering the much-needed productivity-enhancing public works that meet local needs. It also offers a threshold or benchmark income for the poor in their native places and helps prevent distress migration to cities. But prolonged non-payment of wages—a collective governmental lapse—and technical hurdles such as e-KYC have eroded participation. Registration numbers have fallen over the years, and rural incomes have not increased, stabilised or become universal in tandem. Nor have potential workers declined on balance; rather, official discouragement—often couched in the derisory phrase 'hole-digging scheme'—is evident.

Budgetary allocations have steadily declined in both real and nominal terms: funds released were Rs 110,000 crore, Rs 98,468 crore, Rs 90,811 crore, Rs 89,268 crore, and Rs 85,839 crore in the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, respectively. This signals a lackadaisical, step-motherly attitude towards a crucial rural development and poverty-alleviation scheme—a measure intended as a direct attack on poverty.

There is no escaping the development of the poorest in villages if India seeks overall progress and rapid reduction of poverty and inequality. This means that the livelihood opportunities for the rural poor must be significantly expanded and diversified, including in the areas of skill development as a process of gradual increase in enablement and non-traditional employment in the hinterland. As agriculture and allied activities remain the village mainstay, land productivity must be improved at the outset.

This requires better irrigation, led by large-scale upgrading of water bodies and rainwater inlet paths, repair of bunds, and augmentation of water-holding capacity. It also calls for interlinking water bodies from the point of view of micro-watersheds and topography. Such activities need direct and consistent technical and engineering assistance, which must be made readily available—and this is what seriousness and constancy of attention look like.

The public works and irrigation department must be activated duly and remain accessible for planning and supervision of MGNREGS works. Coordination with related departments is essential to strengthen this village-oriented development and antipoverty programmes.

Decentralised water-body conservation, swamps and bioswales, and enhanced potable water availability align naturally with sanitation, rural water supply, recycling, and measures to economise irrigation use and ensure wider, fairer distribution. This would make more land productive and suitable for multi-cropping, including nutritious crops such as pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, fruits, improved fodder, and region-specific cereals. Such systemic transformation would generate more regular and better-paying employment and diversify rural output.

The spillover effects—towards sustainable development goals (SDG), manpower upgrading and alignment with emerging industrial needs, wider skills dissemination, and greater local employment for women—would be substantial. Rising rural incomes would stabilise rural demand, benefiting even urban manufacturing and the service industry. This is the forward linkage that can strengthen MGNREGS; the backward linkage lies in adequate investment and the provision of trained personnel and departmental support.

Highway and industrial-corridor development, too, can be considered genuine antipoverty interventions. Systematically connecting rural areas to national and district-level highways will spur transport, trade, marketing, housing, and construction in villages. This, in turn, will encourage local skill training and its practical use, reinforced by the spread of schooling across all locations. Such direct and indirect linkages, along with development efforts, apply across all types of antipoverty policy action. What they require, above all, is method and policy institutional seriousness.

(The writer is a retired professor at the University of Mysore)

Labelling Afghans a national security threat, Pakistan has forced out about a million this year, depriving them of a haven from Afghanistan's turmoil

Fed up with Taliban, Pakistan expels Afghan refugees

ELIAN PELTIER AND ZIA UR-REHMAN

An Afghan man sits with his granddaughter on a cold morning in Argentina Park, where Afghan refugees were living and sheltering after being evicted, in Islamabad, Pakistan. THE NEW YORK TIMES

As Pakistan and Afghanistan have escalated military clashes and closed their borders, Pakistani authorities have intensified mass expulsions of Afghans, saying they can no longer accommodate the decades-old refugee community.

So far this year, about one million of the three million Afghans living in Pakistan have been deported or forced to return to Afghanistan, a country where many have never lived and where jobs and affordable housing are scarce amid a worsening humanitarian crisis. Many have lived their whole lives in Pakistan, which had served as a haven during Afghanistan's successive wars since the Soviet Union's invasion in 1979.

It no longer is.

On a recent evening on the outskirts of Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, four families with children, including an infant just seven days old, were loading a truck with their lifelong possessions — bed frames, chickens, water jerrycans and a few pieces of luggage.

Saifuddin, who goes by one name, said they had decided to leave before the crackdown on Afghans got worse. They had heard calls to go back to Afghanistan both at the mosque where they prayed and from the loudspeakers on police cars patrolling their slum.

"Even after 45 years here, this isn't our land," he said. "And we don't have a single home in Afghanistan."

Large numbers of Afghans have moved back and forth for decades, especially in the countries' border areas that share linguistic and cultural ties. Expulsions are not new, but the indiscriminate nature of the current drive is. Pakistan has vowed to expel all Afghans, no matter what their immigration status is or if they face danger upon their return to Afghanistan.

Pakistan's push overlaps with moves by Western nations to restrict or prohibit Afghans from entering. The Trump administration said that it had stopped processing immigration applications from Afghanistan, and that it would review the status of Afghan asylum-seekers already in the United States, including those who worked for US or NATO forces during the US-led war, after the shooting last Wednesday of two National Guard troops in Washington. The main suspect is Afghan.

Iran, another of Afghanistan's neighbours, has also deported or forced out more than 1.5 million Afghans this year. The large Afghan refugee communities abroad have served as a lifeline for Afghanistan, sending money back home and driving cross-border trade that has helped keep a battered Afghan economy afloat.

But as Pakistan and Iran have faced their own economic crises, their governments have amped up the xenophobic rhetoric in recent months and accelerated large-scale expulsions that they initiated in 2023. Since then, the two nations have expelled or forcibly returned more than 4.5 million Afghans. More than half of those—2.5 million—were driven out this year.

Pakistani authorities have urged landlords to kick Afghan families out of apartments and encouraged citizens in at least one province to help them deport Afghans through a whistleblower system. They have arrested 12 times as many Afghans this year as in all of last year, according to the United Nations' refugee agency.

"The scale of deportations and forced repatriations has been brutal," said Sanaa Alimia, a professor of political science at the London-based Agha Khan University who has studied the Afghan community in Pakistan. Those leaving before they get arrested, like Saifuddin's family, have become a common sight on Pakistan's roads, loaded aboard colourful trucks that carry entire families and their possessions to the border.

They are being driven out of the slums of Karachi, where many lived by collecting metal scraps or other garbage. Others have left the city of Lahore, where they worked as day labourers and mechanics, and the onion fields and coal mines of Balochistan, where they served as a cheap, hardworking labour force.

"We're at the mercy of the Pakistani authorities," said Mehrafzon Jalili, 24, a former Afghan dentistry student who for months lived in a tent encampment in a park in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital. She shared the park with hundreds of other Afghan families who were evicted from their homes this year.

Early on November 25, Pakistani police swept in to arrest the stranded Afghans and take them to a deportation facility, according to Jalili and another Afghan woman in the encampment, who shared videos of the raid with *The New York Times*.

The mass migrations of Afghans into Pakistan began after the Soviet invasion, when Islamabad welcomed them as "holy warriors" and "Islamic brethren." But the official messaging has shifted over the decades, increasingly portraying them as "criminals," "drug peddlers" and, most recently, "terrorists."

"We have been welcoming and hosting them with open arms for decades," Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, the spokesperson for Pakistan's armed forces, said in an interview this year. "But a large number of Afghans are involved in criminal activities."

Pakistani officials now argue that all Afghans in the country are a threat to national security. They have said that the attacker behind the bombing of a courthouse in Islamabad that killed 12 people this month was Afghan.

A faction of the Pakistani Taliban, which is independent but has pledged allegiance to the Taliban government in Afghanistan, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Pakistani authorities accuse the Afghan government of financing and sheltering militants of the resurgent Pakistani Taliban, which has staged regular attacks on security forces within Pakistan.

Tensions between the two countries escalated this past week, when a suicide attack on the headquarters of paramilitary forces in the western Pakistani city of Peshawar, near the border with Afghanistan, killed three officers and wounded 11 others. President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan blamed the Pakistani Taliban for the attack.

Pakistan has retaliated in recent months by launching airstrikes on Afghanistan's two largest cities and in the border areas that have long been a hotbed of insurgent activities. On November 25, the Taliban government spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahid, accused Pakistan of killing 10 people in air raids overnight. The Pakistani military denied responsibility.

Afghan security forces have struck back by attacking Pakistani military posts, in a sharp spiral of violence this fall that has killed dozens and has pushed regional powers like Qatar, Turkey, Iran and Russia to try to mediate between the two belligerents, to little success so far.

Afghan citizens in Pakistan have been caught in the middle of the rising tensions.

Authorities have refused to renew the visas of Afghans who have lived in Pakistan for their entire lives, including children born there. Some 620,000 of the Afghans living in Pakistan are younger than 15. "Expelled young Afghans will remember it for generations," said Saba Gul Khattak, an independent Pakistani researcher who has campaigned for better treatment of Afghans.

While many wealthier Afghans have avoided deportation so far through connections or bribes to renew their visas, the expulsion drive has fallen hardest on the poor.

Jalili and the families who were arrested in the park are among those who face expulsion. She worked for years as a hospital receptionist, serving as the main breadwinner for her mother and three of her siblings, until her family's Pakistani landlord kicked them out of their apartment. Her father was an Afghan army colonel who was arrested and killed by the Taliban while in hiding in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, she said.

At night, when a shivering cold fell on the park, Afghan men and teenage boys took turns standing at entries to protect the community. But they could do little when police cleared the park and forced the Afghan families onto buses. **NYT**

Public discourse in the age of deepfakes

BHUVANESHWAR RAI

In recent years, as India stands tall as the world's largest democracy, a new battlefield has emerged—not on the streets but on the screens. What was once healthy political debate has morphed into digital warfare. The migration of India's political discourse to the digital realm marks one of the most profound transformations of our age. Social media platforms have become a new digital *agora*: vibrant, chaotic and indispensable spaces for public discourse and political mobilisation.

There is no doubt that the Internet and social media platforms have empowered millions, giving voice to the previously unheard and enabling direct interaction between the electorate and its leaders. Yet this double-edged sword presents a formidable challenge to India's constitutional order. The very tools that foster participation can be weaponised to spread misinformation, amplify hatred and silence dissent, turning the public space into a battlefield for asymmetric information warfare.

Today, social media platforms host networks of individuals and groups that employ a range of tactics: the systematic promotion of misinformation; targeted harassment of critics, particularly journalists and opposition leaders; and the amplification of communal and abusive content.

Thousands – sometimes lakhs – of fake accounts are deployed to manipulate online trends, creating an artificial sense of public opinion and degrading the quality of information available to citizens. Notably, in the *Bennet & Coleman* case, the Supreme Court of India recognised the 'right to know' as a facet of free speech.

Troll armies flood platforms with "noise" and disinformation, preventing citizens from accessing actual news. This is not random behaviour by individual users but a coordinated strategy to control the public narrative. The ultimate goal of IT cells is not merely to disseminate vast quantities of misinformation; it is to exhaust the opposition – and even neutral citizens – into silence. When a political party uses a troll army to target a journalist, these are not just "private individuals" arguing online; they constitute an organised entity suppressing a citizen's voice.

Political IT cells have moved far beyond simple tweets, deploying hyper-realistic synthetic media. Meanwhile, the "three-hour takedown" rule under the Digital Media Ethics Code, 2021, under the Information Technology Act—requiring platforms to delete or disable content flagged by the Election Commission—has become ineffective when a video can reach 10 million views in 20 minutes via encrypted WhatsApp networks. The result is a chilling effect. People fall silent not because they fear the law, but because they fear online mobs.

As the *Kaushal Kishor* judgment affirmed, the State has a positive obligation to protect citizens' free speech from private retaliation, yet robust mechanisms to ensure this online remain absent.

At the heart of this crisis lies a conflict between each citizen's fundamental right to free speech and the emergent threats posed by coordinated cyberbullying. As a nation, we are confronted by a series of urgent questions. First, where does the State's responsibility begin for the actions of private individuals who claim to be political 'supporters'? Second, how do we regulate harmful digital speech which constitutes intimidation and incitement without hampering legitimate political expression?

Here, judicial interference becomes essential. In *Tehseen Poonawalla*, the Supreme Court issued guidelines to curb physical mob lynching. A similar framework could be adapted to prevent digital lynching as well.

We are also witnessing a two-tier justice system for online speech, where swift arrests were made in cases of citizens' criticism, contrasted with silence when party functionaries engage in hate speech. Many journalists experienced this during the recent elections. This has become a constitutional problem that requires a delicate balancing act, compelling the State, the judiciary and society at large to reinterpret the legal jurisprudence for the digital age.

A digital code of conduct for political parties—mirroring the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for offline campaigning—is now imperative. India also needs a legally binding agreement requiring candidates to pledge that their parties will not employ paid trolls or use deepfakes, with disqualification of candidates as the penalty for violation.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the School of Law, CHRIST University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

China accuses US, USSR of threatening peace

Peking, December 1
Chinese Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping warned here today in a speech before visiting American President Gerald Ford that the world was threatened with a new, planetary conflict because of Moscow and Washington. In one of the strongest addresses he has made in the banquet hall of the People's Congress, where he was presiding over a gala dinner honouring Mr. Ford, Mr. Teng said that the international situation was currently even "more important" than the issue of normalisation of Sino-American relations.

25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

Priyanka crowned Miss World

London, Dec 1 (PTI)
A cool and confident Miss India, Priyanka Chopra, charmed the world with her smile to become the fourth Indian in seven years to win the prestigious Miss World crown and bring the title home for the second consecutive year. It was a moving and emotional moment for the 18-year-old belle from Bareilly as she took the crown from compatriot Yukta Mookhey here last night, amid applause and cheers that greeted the hot favourite, who out-smarted 94 others from across the world for the title.

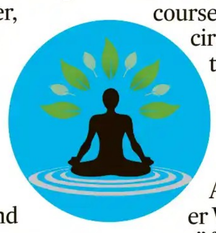
OASIS | SURYAKUMARI DENNISON

Conquering the challenges of change

'*It was roses, roses, all the way*,' declares the narrator of Robert Browning's poem, *The Patriot*, describing the wonderful welcome he received when he entered a town.

He goes on to say that, exactly a year later, the crowds that thronged to greet him are out again; but now, to watch approvingly as he is led to his execution. We are not told why the tide of public opinion has turned against the 'patriot' of the title, but he faces dishonour and death with faith and fortitude. At this time of year, I recall the dramatic downfall of that once-favoured figure.

In November, 1997, my husband had obtained employment in Malaysia, where I planned to join him soon. Meanwhile, I was celebrating my birthday with my brother, in Mumbai. After watching a movie with two of his friends from filmdom, the young starlets, Anupama Verma and Preity Zinta, wished me at midnight. The ensuing hours abounded in treats and surprises. "God's in His heaven, all's right with the world," proclaims Pippa, another of Browning's resilient characters. On that joyous occasion, I wholeheartedly endorsed her view.



By my next birthday, I was engulfed in gloom. My husband had suffered a stroke, and I had lost my father. Of course, unlike the rapid reversal of circumstances in my case, and that of Browning's hapless hero, calamity does not always come calling after a brief period of exhilaration.

Often, in the words of American writer, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, "life rolls by like a song" for decades, with no setbacks in sight. Disaster, however, lurks round the corner, ready to strike.

Ancient philosophers believed in the Wheel of Fortune, a symbol of the fickleness of fate. In Roman mythology, blindfolded goddess Fortuna rotates it randomly. Therefore, people fixed to it cannot remain forever in the same position. A person who attains the height of happiness might subsequently be mired in misery.

We may not believe in this arbitrary allocation of events and experiences, but, with or without a wheel, human existence has its ups and downs. Those are largely beyond our control, but we have a choice.

Instead of crumbling or collapsing when confronted with the challenges of change, we can conquer them through courage and composure.

WINTER SESSION: Rijiju says demand not rejected, but asks Oppn not to insist on timeline

Govt says 'not averse' to SIR discussion

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

DEBATE DEMAND

- Govt signals openness, Rijiju says demand for SIR discussion 'not rejected'
- Opposition cites 'trust deficit'; I.N.D.I.A bloc floor leaders to press for debate within two days
- Oppn agrees to drop SIR from title, willing to frame under 'electoral reforms'

The government on Monday told the Opposition that it is ready to discuss issues related to electoral reforms during Parliament's Winter Session, but refused to commit to a timeline. The I.N.D.I.A bloc, meanwhile, vowed to persist with its demand while showing flexibility by agreeing to drop Special Intensive Revision (SIR) from the title of the discussion.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha that the government is "not averse to discussing anything" and that the Opposition's demand is under consideration. He stressed that it has "not been rejected" and promised to revert "soon", as the Opposition recalled his remarks at the Business Advisory Committee that he would respond by 9 pm Sunday.

Rijiju said, "Please give me some time. There are other businesses listed that can be taken up in the meantime. Don't presume that the government is not ready to discuss any matter... Please don't put conditions on timeline."

Trinamool Congress floor leader Derek O'Brien shot back, "The problem is not the timeline but the trust deficit."

At a meeting chaired earlier in the day by Congress president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, the I.N.D.I.A floor leaders resolved to vociferously press for a discussion on SIR within the next two days and await the government's response. A decision on the next course of action will be taken on Wednesday, sources said.

Though the Trinamool Congress did not send representatives to the meeting, sources indicated that the Mamata Banerjee-led party is in sync with the demand for a debate on SIR. The AAP, which had walked out of the I.N.D.I.A bloc after the Delhi elections, is also part of the joint initiative to challenge the government.

The Opposition will stage a protest at 'Makar Dwar' on Tuesday, demanding a discussion on "electoral reforms". This indicates its willingness to adjust the wording of the debate, with leaders saying that SIR could be taken up under the broader umbrella of reforms.

At the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, sources said Opposition MPs suggested that if the government was not prepared to discuss SIR, the debate could instead be framed as "urgent need for further electoral reforms", "need for electoral reforms", or "urgent need to further strengthen the integrity of electoral reforms".

While the LS witnessed protests demanding a discussion on SIR, the felicitation of Chairman CP Radhakrishnan allowed the RS to function smoothly. However, once the ceremony ended, O'Brien renewed the demand for a discussion.

Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Dharmendra Pradhan and Ravneet Singh Bittu during the session. PTI

LoP in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra outside the House on the first day of the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhion Monday. PTI

LS adjourned amid chaos; Manipur GST bill passed

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The first day of the Winter Session of Parliament witnessed disruptions in the Lok Sabha over demands for a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), forcing the House to be adjourned amid chaos. As the Opposition raised slogans, Speaker Om Birla asked protesting members to allow discussions to continue. He also took a moment to congratulate women athletes. Despite the uproar, a bill on GST in Manipur was passed.

At the start of the session, the Opposition pressed for a debate on SIR, but Birla asked them not to disrupt proceedings. The House functioned for only 20 minutes before being adjourned for the first time. "This House is not for slogans; there is ample space outside for that. People have voted you here to raise their issues. People watch us," Birla said, cautioning members against raising slogans during Question Hour.

Three key bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha. As disruptions and sloganeering continued, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill 2025 to levy excise duty on tobacco and related products. The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill 2025 and the Health Security National Security Cess Bill 2025 were also introduced. However, there was no discussion on the bills.

After the House reconvened, the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill 2025 was introduced and passed soon after, amid the din.

Women athletes hailed

Birla also congratulated women athletes.

"It is a matter of great pride that the Indian Women's Cricket Team won the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 by defeating South Africa. It is another proud moment that the Indian team won the Women's T20 Cricket World Cup for the Blind," Birla said.

He also congratulated the Indian team for winning the Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025, as well as the athletes representing India at the Deaflympics, where the country secured a record 20 medals.

Kharge's Dhankhar remark sparks uproar in Rajya Sabha

FAREWELL ROW

- Kharge felicitates Radhakrishnan, laments lack of farewell for Dhankhar
- Nadda and Rijiju object, term remarks inappropriate on a 'solemn occasion'
- Rijiju cites Opposition's motion against Dhankhar; Nadda appeals for dignity

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, who felicitated newly elected Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan on his first day in the chair on Monday, referred to the "unexpected and sudden exit" of Jagdeep Dhankhar and the House's inability to bid him farewell, drawing a sharp reaction from the Treasury benches.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled Radhakrishnan's journey from humble beginnings to public service. Kharge, in his brief address, urged the Chairman to maintain balance between both sides and ensure that Opposition members are also allowed to raise their issues in the House.

Emphasising that the Congress "staunchly stands" by constitutional values and time-honoured parliamentary traditions, Kharge assured cooperation in the conduct of proceedings. "Fair and impartial conduct of proceedings, providing just opportunity to members of each party, is essential for the credibility of this office," Kharge said.

He then referred to the sudden exit of Dhankhar, who resigned from the post of Vice President on July 21 citing health issues.

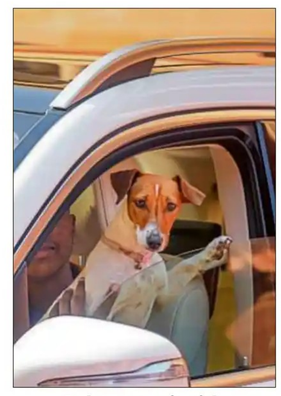
"It was a completely unexpected and sudden exit from the office of Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. I was disheartened that this House did not get an opportunity to bid him farewell," he said.

The reference to Dhankhar enraged the Treasury benches, with Leader of the House JP Nadda and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju objecting to Kharge's remarks on what they described as a "solemn occasion". Rijiju said that the PM had made dignified remarks as part of the felicitation event and questioned why the Leader of Opposition chose to raise an issue "not necessary at this moment".

"The language you used for the former chairman, the way you insulted him, the motion you served — we still have that copy," Rijiju said, alluding to the frequent run-ins the Opposition had with Dhankhar during his tenure as chairman. The Opposition had even submitted a motion seeking his removal as vice president.

C P RADHAKRISHNAN
Rajya Sabha Chairman

"Every day, every hour, every minute, every second of members' time in the House should be used to strengthen our democracy by meaningful debates. In a parliamentary democracy, debates and discussions are the only constructive way through which we can find finer solutions to the problems of our people.



A dog seen inside Congress MP Renuka Chaudhary's car outside Parliament on Monday. PTI

'Those sitting inside bite': Cong MP on dog row

NEW DELHI, PTI: "Those sitting inside bite, dogs don't," Congress MP Renuka Chowdhury said on Monday after she arrived in Parliament with a rescued stray in her car, triggering a row and prompting some BJP members to accuse her of indulging in drama.

The Rajya Sabha MP said she picked up the stray earlier in the day and was taking it to a veterinarian.

"This government does not like animals. Animals don't have a voice. It (dog) was in the car, so what is their problem? It is so small, does it look like it will bite? Those sitting inside Parliament bite, not dogs," she told reporters when asked about the dog in her car. "Which law says that I can't rescue a dog," she asked.

Hitting back at Renuka , Union minister Ramdas Athawale said she is right in saying that people inside Parliament bite and dogs don't, as it is the opposition members who bite and create disorder and 'hungama' (chaos) inside the House.

BJP MP Jagdambika Pal accused Chowdhury of indulging in a "tamasha" (theatrics).

In Uttar Pradesh, SIR brings home estranged sons, daughters

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Opposition parties may be up in arms against the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of the voters' list, but in Uttar Pradesh, the exercise has enabled many estranged sons and daughters to get back in touch with their families — after decades, in some cases.

Several such cases have been reported from Bareilly, where sons and daughters contacted their parents seeking information about the old electoral rolls.

When Om Prakash, a resident of the Kashipur village, left his native, he was only 15. After spending 25 years in Delhi, Om Prakash returned to his village last week looking for details of the old electoral rolls, said local reports.

Then there is Snehlata (40), who left home 15 years ago after marrying a man of her choice, Omkar Chaudhary, against her parents' wishes.

After her family lodged an FIR, she appeared before the court and gave a statement in favour of Chaudhary, following which she cut off all contact with her parents.

She called her mother a few days ago to ask about the details of the old electoral rolls after officials asked her to furnish them based on the 2003 voters' list, said the local reports.

A resident of Bulandshahar district, Sulekha, had also left her home after being disowned by her family following her marriage to a Muslim man and conversion to Islam. Now named Rihana, the woman called her mother after almost a decade seeking information about the old electoral rolls.

Similarly, Keshav of Bilpur in the Aonla parliamentary constituency said his daughter, who eloped nine years ago with her maternal uncle's son, also contacted the family after years. "Her words were so emotional that her mother broke down," he said.

(With PTI inputs)

PM to Oppn: Cut drama & deliver

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Monday, in his opening remarks at the beginning of the Winter Session, said the Opposition should focus on "delivery" and not "drama". He also said that the Opposition should get over its failure and reject negativity.

Modi told reporters at the beginning of the session at Parliament's Hans Dwar that Parliament was a place for policy and delivery, not drama or slogan-shouting.

"There is plenty of room for drama elsewhere. Here, we need delivery. This is not the place for slogans; we must focus on policy," he said.

The PM also said that the Opposition should not be swept by the "negativity" of electoral losses.

"Come out of the setbacks of poll losses and raise strong points in House debates. Along with democracy, the world is seeing the strengthening of our economy. India has proved that democracy can deliver," he said.

Modi further said that first-time MPs and young parliamentarians must be given the chance to raise concerns.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses media in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

"We must ensure every party, and every new-generation MP, every first-time MP, benefits the House," the prime minister said.

Cong hits back

In response, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said discussions on matters like the SIR of electoral rolls and pollution were not "drama".

"The Opposition has asked for debates on many issues, and not just SIR, but the government does not want to discuss anything," said the Wayanad MP.

"The PM has also asked us to 'enjoy the weather'. He should look outside for a moment and see what is happening in the country," Priyanka added.

GPS spoofing, interference reported at seven major airports: Govt

No effect on movements of flights

NEW DELHI, DHNS

GPS spoofing and interference incidents have been reported at Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Amritsar, Hyderabad, and Chennai airports, and the Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) has been asked to identify the source of spoofing, the Ministry of Civil Aviation informed Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Responding to the questions raised by YSR Congress MP Niranjan Reddy, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said cybersecurity is ensured by continuous upgrades, and new protective measures are being taken as the nature and type of the threat change.

He said some flights reported GPS spoofing in the vicinity of Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi while using GPS-based landing procedures as they approached the runway.

Some flights reported GPS spoofing in the vicinity of Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi. REUTERS FILE

SIGNAL SABOTAGE

- Global Positioning System/Global Navigation Satellite System spoofing and jamming refers to attempts to manipulate a user's navigation system by giving false signals.
- Wireless Monitoring Organisation mobilised to locate spoofing signals near runways.
- interference reported from Delhi to Chennai since late 2023.

Contingency procedures

Contingency procedures were used for GPS-spoofed flights approaching the runway, he said, adding there were no effects on movements of flights, on other runway ends having conventional navigational aids being operational, he said.

"Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also requested Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) to possibly identify the source of interference/spoofing. During the high-level meeting, WMO was directed to mobilise more resources to identify the source of spoofing based on approximate spoofing location details shared by DGCA and Airports Authority of India," Naidu said.

After being mandated by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to report instances of GPS jamming or spoofing since November 2023, he said, regular reports are being received from other major airports in the country. "GNSS interference reports are being received from Kolkata, Amritsar, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangaluru, and Chennai airports," he said.

Naidu said Minimum Operating Network (MON), consisting of Conventional (Ground-based) Navigation and Surveillance Infrastructure, are retained in accordance with global best practices.

"To enhance cybersecurity against global threats, AAI is implementing advanced cybersecurity solutions for IT networks and infrastructure. These actions have been taken in accordance with the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) guidelines," he added.

Fugitive offenders owe Rs 58K cr to banks: Govt

NEW DELHI, PTI: As many as 15 individuals, including Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi, have been declared as Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEOs) who collectively owe over Rs 58,000 crore to banks, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Vijay Mallya

Nirav Modi

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said, as of October 31, 15 people have been declared Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEOs) by the Special Court, under the provisions of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA).

Of this, nine are linked to large-scale financial frauds committed against public sector banks.

Two fugitive economic offenders have negotiated a loan settlement under One Time Settlement, he added.

In Supreme Court, EC defends SIR in West Bengal, TN; terms mass deletion claims 'exaggerated'

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Election Commission (EC) has strongly defended in the Supreme Court its ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, saying allegations of mass deletion of genuine voters are "highly exaggerated", "speculative", and politically motivated.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi on November 11 sought separate responses from the EC on pleas filed by the DMK, CPM, the West Bengal unit of the Congress, and Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders challenging the SIR in TN and Bengal.

Filing separate affidavits in the top court, EC Secretary Pawan Diwan sought the dismissal of the petitions.

BLOs stage a protest over alleged excessive workload during the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

In an 81-page counter-affidavit filed on November 26 to a petition by TMC MP Dola Sen and others, the EC said the narrative alleging widespread disenfranchisement in Bengal was being "amplified to serve vested political interests".

"That it is submitted, that a harmonious reading of Articles 324 and 326 read with Sections 16, 19, and 22 of the RP Act 1950, read with Rule 21A, makes it clear that the EC is vested with powers to assess the eligibility of the electors, including citizenship, to enable the constitutional right to vote. The guidelines issued with respect to the SIR are constitutional and in the interest of maintaining the purity of the electoral rolls, which is a prerequisite for free and fair elections," it said.

The poll panel also said its powers to undertake such revisions were firmly grounded in Articles 324 and 326 of the Constitution, and in various provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules.

Retd CJI Gavai, others to brief Parl panel on 'one election'

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Retired Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, IMF First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath, senior MP and lawyer Kapil Sibal, and Law Commission and Election Commission officials will appear before the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the "One Nation One Election" (ONOE) Bill between December 4 and 17.

Retired CJI Justice Gavai is expected to appear before the panel — headed by BJP MP P P Chaudhary and examining the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, providing for simultaneous polls — on December 17.

Gopinath and Sanjeev Sanyal, who is also a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM, have also been called to appear on the same day.

Other retired CJIs—Sanjiv Khanna, D Y Chandrachud, U U Lalit, and J S Khehar — have already appeared before the panel.

Law Commission representatives have been called on December 4, when Delhi High Court advocate J Sai Deepak has also been asked to appear before it.

On December 10, senior lawyer and MP Sibal and representatives of the Election Commission have been invited to share their comments.

The 39-member multi-party panel held its first meeting on January 8 this year. The Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17 last year and sent to the JPC for further scrutiny.

Justice B R Gavai

Gita Gopinath

The Lok Sabha extended the tenure of the ONOE panel till the last week of the current Winter session, and it is likely to seek further extension.

A section of jurists who have appeared before the panel found fault with a provision in the Bill that gives the Election Commission (EC) the power to decide on postponing Assembly elections, saying it would raise questions about violating the basic structure doctrine and Article 14.

Retired CJI Khanna is learnt to have told the panel that the EC's postponement of elections might result in "indirect" President's Rule, which, "in other words", would be the taking over of the reins of the state government by the Union government. He felt that this would "be questionable, judicially, as violating" the federal structure.

Retired CJIs Lalit, Chandrachud, and Khehar were among others who flagged concerns over a provision in the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, that would allow the EC to unilaterally recommend to the President not to hold elections to a specific state Assembly while going ahead with others.

Rajasthan CID arrests Punjab man for spying for Pakistan

JAIPUR, PTI: Rajasthan's CID (Intelligence) has arrested a Punjab resident for allegedly collecting classified information related to the Indian Army and passing it to a Pakistani handler, officials said on Monday.

Prakash Singh alias Badal, a resident of Firozpur, was detained near a military establishment in the Ganganagar district and later arrested under the Official Secrets Act, 1923, they said.

Inspector General (Intelligence) Prafful Kumar informed that the CID had been monitoring suspected espionage activity linked to Pakistani intelligence agencies when Singh came under the scanner.

"During surveillance, it emerged that Prakash Singh was in contact with Pakistan's ISI through social media. He was gathering sensitive information linked to the army in Rajasthan, Punjab and Gujarat and sending it to a Pakistani handler," Kumar said.

Officials said Singh, 34, was spotted near the Sadulwali military station in Ganganagar on November 27.

'Incorrect to pass burden onto farmers': SC on Delhi pollution

Says stubble burning shouldn't be politicised or become ego issue

NEW DELHI, PTI

VIEWS ON STUBBLE BURNING

- Stubble burning was there during Covid but why could people still see clear blue skies? This suggests other factors are at play.
- We do not want to comment on stubble burning as it is incorrect to pass the burden onto people (farmers) who are hardly represented in this court.
- The issue of stubble burning should not unnecessarily become a political issue or an issue of ego.
- The Delhi pollution matter cannot be listed customarily in the month of October and rather it should be taken up regularly at least twice a month.

The Supreme Court on Monday said the air pollution issue in the Delhi-NCR cannot be treated as a "customary" case to be listed only during the winter months, noting that it will be taken twice in a month to find out short- and long-term solutions to the menace.

In a significant shift from the usual narrative, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said, "The issue of stubble burning should not unnecessarily become a political issue or an issue of ego."

Questioning the usual blame on stubble burning as the key contributor to air pollution in Delhi-NCR, CJI Kant, who comes from a farmer's family at Hissar in Haryana, asked, "Stubble burning was there during Covid, but why could people still see clear blue skies? This suggests other factors are at play."

"We do not want to comment on stubble burning, as it is incorrect to pass the burden onto people (farmers) who are hardly represented in this court," the CJI said, adding, "The issue of stubble burning should not unnecessarily become a political issue or an issue of ego."

Seeking clarity on immediate and long-term measures, the CJI asked the Centre to spell out specific steps of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and others to apprise it of the short and long-term measures to tackle the menace of air pollution.

It listed the plea for hearing on December 10.

At the outset, the CJI said, "The Delhi pollution matter cannot be listed customarily in the month of October and rather it should be taken up regularly at least twice a month."

Hinting towards other contributing factors, the CJI said during Covid-19-induced lockdowns, stubble burning happened as usual, but still blue skies and stars were visible to citizens. "Why? Something to be thought about and other factors. We would like to have a report within a week on the measures taken to contain other factors," the bench said, adding it wanted to "see long-term and short-term plans".

The CJI then referred to unplanned urban growth and rising aspirational population in the country and said, "None of the cities of the country were developed to accommodate this scale of population or with the thought that each home will have multiple cars. Let us see which measures are suggested to us and how these measures are implemented or are only on paper."

The bench said it will ensure that the air pollution matter is listed twice a month throughout the year to monitor the implementation of long-term and short-term measures.

The bench said there should be a scientific analysis to ascertain the factor which is contributing the most to the problem.

"We cannot sit idle. Solutions must come from experts. The courts may or may not have those solutions, but we can provide a platform for all stakeholders to deliberate," the CJI said.

Four states notify change of Raj Bhavan to Lok Bhavan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ CHENNAI/BHUBANESWAR, PTI

The official residences of Governors of states and Lieutenant-Governors (L-Gs) of Union Territories (UTs) across India underwent a rechristening on Monday, following instructions from the Union Home Ministry.

Called Raj Bhavan for Governors and Raj Niwas for L-Gs thus far, they will henceforth be known as Lok Bhavan and Lok Niwas, respectively.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar said in a statement on Monday that the renaming marked an important milestone in moving from a "colonial mindset" to a democratic one.

He also congratulated the people of the state for embracing a new mindset that aligns with changing times.

The proposal was first mooted by Arlekar himself at the All India Governors' Conference in 2022, when he was the Governor of Bihar, the statement said.

Earlier, the Governor's office released photos and videos showing workers removing the "Raj Bhavan" nameboard from the gate wall.

Elsewhere

Reacting to the change, an official release from Tamil Nadu said the renaming reflected the evolution of Raj Bhavan into Lok Bhavan, carrying forward its longstanding commitment to people-centric governance and active public participation in its programmes and initiatives.

"The change of name comes into effect immediately," the Governor's office said.

It represented a meaningful stride in India's ongoing journey to uphold the nation's cultural heritage, civilisational values, and the spirit of the Constitution, ensuring that the institution continues to resonate with the aspirations of the "sisters and brothers of Tamil Nadu", said the release.

The term "Makkal Maaligai" was used as the Tamil equivalent for Lok Bhavan in the backdrop for events, and on social media as well.

In Odisha, the change took place in both capital city Bhubaneswar and temple town Puri, both of which now have Lok Bhavans.

Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati said on X (formerly Twitter) on Monday: "Happy to share a meaningful milestone for Odisha as Raj Bhavan is now Lok Bhavan, a name that truly reflects the aspirations of our people."

Gujarat HC junks plea against formation of UCC panel

AHMEDABAD, PTI: The Gujarat High Court on Monday rejected a plea challenging the constitution of a committee by the state government to assess the need for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), holding it can not interfere with functions of the executive.

The HC maintained the panel's formation, announced early this year, was purely a policy decision taken by state government. While rejecting the plea filed by Surat-based petitioner Abdul Vahab Sopariwala, a division bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice D N Ray held that the court can not interfere with the executive's functions as laid down under Article 162 of the Constitution.

Sopariwala's petition was earlier rejected by a single-judge bench of the HC. The chief justice noted that the single judge bench had "rightly recorded that the constitution of the committee is purely an executive function of the state government under Article 162 of the Constitution and would be outside the purview of judicial review".

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

THANKS FOR LETTING ME JOIN YOU TODAY, BOYS!
YOU BET, BOSS!
NOW LET THIS OLD DOG SHOW YOU SOME TRICKS HE HAS UP HIS SLEEVE!
WOW...HE DROPS IT IN THE WATER HAZARD EVERY TIME
YOU REALLY CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS!
WHACK

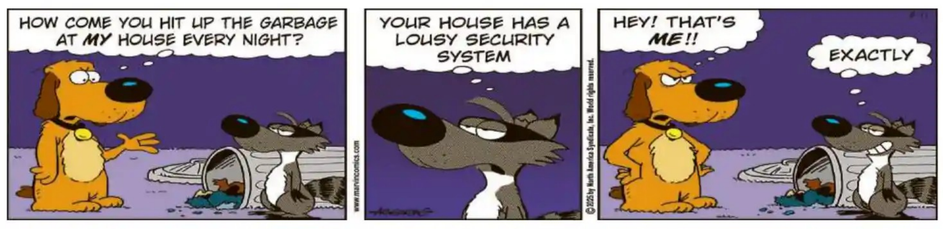
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

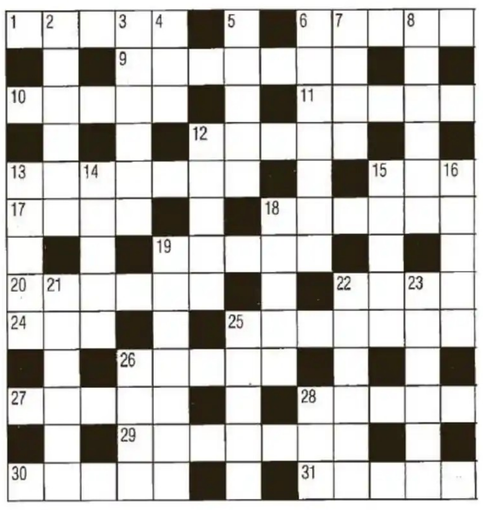
Peanuts

FAULT!
FAULT?! THAT WAS A BAD CALL! THAT BALL WAS IN! HOW COULD YOU CALL IT OUT? YOU'RE CHEATING ME!
SHUT UP, "CRYBABY" BOOBIE, AND SERVE!
THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG DAY!

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12300



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Fish traps, possibly (5)
6 Light competition? (5)
9 For a start, Gene has a little sister (7)
10 Fresh as paint, perhaps (5)
11 Pity it's not a genuine note (5)
12 Stick a step together (5)
13 Fighting man with a sore lid (7)
15 Will she do time? (3)
17 I would take some heart from this suggestion (4)
18 People who, having turned in, dash out! (6)
19 She's soft on an aristocrat (5)
20 He has a pair of jacks (6)
22 An appointment to eat? (4)
24 Little half coughs significant in the navy (3)
25 In a way, nothing for me to make an exhibition about (7)
26 Dismiss the remainder (5)
27 Easy to see with no mountains in the way (5)
28 Breathy line in chat, perhaps (5)
29 Semi-nude girl, say (7)
30 He makes things hot for people (5)
31 Box with a cool head, at speed (5)

DOWN
2 Time possibly ripe to do wrong (6)
3 A businesslike programme (6)
4 A listening figure (3)
5 A growing boy in a car (5)
6 Malt, sir, can give you wind (7)
7 Arthur, when he won Wimbledon (4)
8 They're carved or engraved in small parts (6)
12 He has his favourite period piece (5)
13 Like a sense of form? (5)
14 Looks like lechers having no companion (5)
15 She had to turn up when holding an "at home" (5)
16 Through sounding baffled or confounded (5)
18 Look weary as you fall out, having started off (5)
19 Matey role for which Nero had no love (7)
21 Her mother turned up with Charles Lamb (6)
22 One who contradicts a measure? (6)
23 Ginger, pet? (6)
25 A narrow beam, perhaps? (5)
26 A team on edge? (4)
28 Part of a regular curve (3)

ACROSS
1 Spanish snacks (5)
6 Knowing smile (5)
9 Blissful state (7)
10 Glossy fabric (5)
11 Hibernian (5)
12 Residue or remains (5)
13 Scolds harshly (7)
15 Dowel (3)
17 Object of worship (4)
18 Venerate (6)
19 Dog breed (5)
20 Swiss wooden hut (6)
22 Visage (4)
24 Farmyard bird (3)
25 Type of cloud (7)
26 Legendary king (5)
27 Timorous (5)
28 Locates (5)
29 More than a few (7)
30 Accumulate (5)
31 Belief (5)

DOWN
2 Subsided (6)
3 Brutish person (6)
4 Transgression (3)
5 Asserts (5)
6 Sly laugh (7)
7 Planet (4)
8 Rota (6)
12 Warehouse (5)
13 Female dog (5)
14 Person from Rome (5)
15 Of the foot (5)
16 DNA units (5)
18 Picture puzzle (5)
19 Apart from (7)
21 Balloon gas (6)
22 Unsuccessful, pointless (6)
23 Hug (6)
25 Provide food (5)
26 Fail to hit (4)
28 Excess flesh (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12299

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, S-L-obs 8, D-avid 10, Rower 11, Big 12, Clear 13, Frank-ly 15, C-e-ase 18, See 19, Vessel 21, Sonatas 22, O-ran 23, SEWN 24, Me-rited 26, Scores 29, Lea 31, Tune-R 32, A-lab-a-MA 34, Melba 35, Eke 36, Minus 37, Dealt 38, Stall.
DOWN: 1, Sabre 2, Signs on 4, Lily 5, Braces 6, Sores 7, P-ease 9, Via 12, CL-eaves 14, Ken 16, Asked 17, Eland 19, Vanilla 20, Coast 21, Salon 23, Seabees 24, Merest 25, Tea 27, Cup-I'd 28, Re-M-us 30, S-M-ell 32, Abel 33, AKA.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Steal 8, Worry 10, Canoe 11, Bus 12, Clout 13, Literal 15, Medal 18, Nib 19, Serene 21, Ramadan 22, Pail 23, Reap 24, Teacher 26, Credit 29, Hit 31, Senor 32, Seminar 34, Nasal 35, Nut 36, Flood 37, Lunar 38, Ready.
DOWN: 1, Robin 2, Arsenal 4, Till 5, Acumen 6, Later 7, Koran 9, Rut 12, Cabaret 14, Rim 16, Defer 17, Leaps 19, Satchel 20, Specs 21, Ripen 23, Retinue 24, Tirade 25, Him 27, Realm 28, Donor 30, Fatal 32, Sand 33, Nun.

◆SU-DO-KU-6766◆

1	8	4	3	6		9		2
	5		1				8	
2					8	7		
	9				4	6		
		7	8		9	1		
		1	6				4	
		2	4					5
	1				5		3	
3		5		8	1	2	9	6

easy

9	3	6	2	4	7	1	5	8
5	7	8	1	6	9	3	4	2
1	4	2	8	5	3	7	6	9
3	6	9	7	2	1	4	8	5
7	1	5	9	8	4	2	3	6
2	8	4	6	3	5	9	7	1
6	2	7	3	9	8	5	1	4
4	9	3	5	1	6	8	2	7
8	5	1	4	7	2	6	9	3

SOLUTION TO 6765

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							RACK 1
T1	E1	E1	O1	H4	R1	O1	
							RACK 2
O1	O1	W4	S1	S1	N1	N1	2nd Letter Triple
							RACK 3
R1	R1	S1	P3	R1	O1	I1	Triple Word Score
							RACK 4
L1	A1	O1	C3	N1	B3	Y4	

PAR SCORE 75-85
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

B3	E1	D2	S1	O1	R1	E1	RACK 1 =	60
C3	R1	O1	W4	D2	E1	D2	RACK 2 =	68
R1	E1	A1	W4	A1	K5	E1	RACK 3 =	78
M3	O1	O1	N1	L1	I1	T1	RACK 4 =	77
							JUDD'S TOTAL	283

PAR SCORE 185-195

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WDALR

ADUYG

NOOLGB

CILEIT

Why do they always come in swarms?
They can't help themselves. It's just what they do.
5 23
THEY ARE A NUISANCE, BUT THE TINY BITING INSECTS ARE JUST DOING WHAT COMES ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____ - _____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesteray's Jumbles: EMPTY WAIVE BOOGIE UTMOST
Answer: After purchasing the new wristwatch, — IT WAS TIME TO GO

HITORI-3220

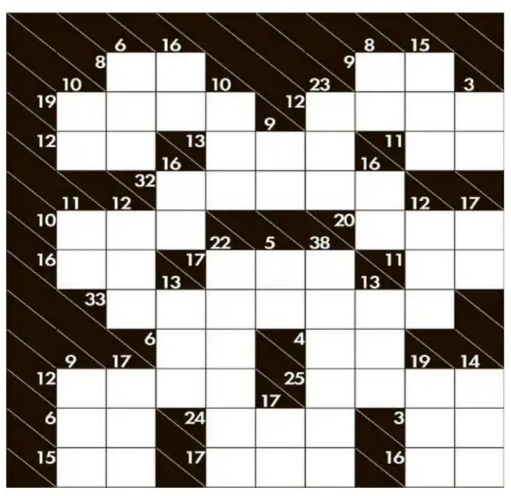
2	8	5	6	1	4	3	7
5	3	2	8	4	5	6	3
8	7	3	1	8	2	5	6
2	8	7	8	3	5	8	8
7	5	8	8	6	1	2	4
5	1	6	2	3	8	7	3
8	6	8	7	2	5	1	1
8	2	4	3	5	3	1	3

SOLUTION TO 3219

■	8	5	7	2	6	1	■
4	■	3	■	7	■	6	1
8	4	■	6	5	3	7	■
5	2	8	■	3	4	■	6
3	■	1	8	■	2	4	5
7	5	■	4	1	8	■	3
2	■	6	3	4	1	5	■
■	6	2	1	■	7	3	4

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3220



SOLUTION TO 3219

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3753

■	4	2						5
3	■						■	
	8	■				■		
		8	6		■			
				4	7			
			■		■		5	
		■	2	7		■		
9	■	3			1		7	4
■		1	5	3				■

SOLUTION TO 3752

7	9	2	3	1	5	4	6	8
8	6	5	9	4	7	2	3	1
3	1	4	2	8	6	7	9	5
1	2	6	8	7	9	3	5	4
4	7	3	5	2	1	9	8	6
5	8	9	4	6	3	1	2	7
9	4	1	6	3	8	5	7	2
2	5	8	7	9	4	6	1	3
6	3	7	1	5	2	8	4	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Asia flood toll climbs past 1,100

Governments scramble to provide relief

PADANG SIDEMPUAN (INDONESIA), AP/PTI

Indonesia's president told survivors of last week's devastating floods that help was arriving to those in need on Monday as Asian governments scaled up their responses to a disaster that has left more than 1,100 dead in three countries.

Hundreds more are missing following flooding and landslides in the past week, which killed at least 604 people in Indonesia, 366 in Sri Lanka and 176 in Thailand, authorities said. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto pledged to rebuild infrastructure while visiting areas impacted by floods and landslides on Sumatra island that left thousands homeless and 464 people missing as of Monday.

Some areas of Indonesia remained unreachable on Monday after the disaster damaged roads and downed communications lines, with residents in impacted areas relying on aircraft delivering supplies. Flooding displaced 2,90,700 people, the National Disaster Management Agency said.

Sri Lankan authorities said rescuers are still searching for 367 missing people.

About 2,18,000 people are housed in temporary shelters after being battered in the past week's downpours that flooded homes, fields and roads and triggered landslides, primarily in the tea-growing central hill country.

In Thailand, the first batch of compensation payments is set to be distributed on Monday, beginning with 239 million baht ($7.4 million) for 26,000 people, government spokesperson Siripong Angkasakulkiat said. He said authorities on Monday worked to clean up streets and restore infrastructure in the southern part of the country, where severe flooding affected more than 1.5 million households and 3.9 million people.

India evacuates citizens

India on Monday evacuated its last batch of stranded nationals from Sri Lanka, as New Delhi intensified its assistance to Colombo's rescue operations for Cyclone Ditwah disaster victims, PTI reports from Colombo. Under Operation Sagar Bandhu, the last batch of 104 Indian passengers stranded at Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo reached Thiruvananthapuram, onboard an IAF aircraft, at around 6.30 am, the Indian High Commission said in a social media post.

Indian Air Force officials during the Operation Sagar Bandhu in Sri Lanka. PTI

CITY IN MOURNING

People lay flowers outside the Wang Fuk Court apartment blocks in the aftermath of the deadly fire in Hong Kong's Tai Po district on Monday. The police has launched an investigation into the blaze that killed 146 people. AFP

Airbus hit by new A320 quality problem

Defect in fuselage panel delays deliveries of aircraft

PARIS, REUTERS

TWIN BLOWS FOR AIRCRAFT COMPANY

- Airbus has identified a quality defect in fuselage panels on several A320-family jets, delaying some deliveries and adding pressure as the company races to meet delivery target.
- The issue comes on top of a major software-related recall that grounded over half the A320 fleet.

Airbus confirmed on Monday that it faced an industrial quality issue with metal panels on some A320-family jets, marking its latest challenge after a recall to fix a computer glitch.

Reuters had exclusively reported earlier that Airbus had identified quality problems affecting the fuselage panels of several dozen A320-family aircraft, delaying some deliveries.

There were no indications that any had reached aircraft in service, but shares in the world's largest planemaker fell by as much as 11% as the glitch overshadowed the grounding of thousands of A320 jets for a software update. Shares closed down 5.9%.

"Airbus confirms it has identified a quality issue affecting a limited number of A320 metal panels," it said, adding: "The source of the issue has been identified, contained and all newly produced panels conform to all requirements."

A spokesperson said the problem stemmed from a supplier, whom they declined to name. Airbus has both internal and external suppliers for its aerostructures, with the front of the A320 fuselage broadly made in France and the rear in Germany. Upper panels tend to be produced in-house, while the rest involve multiple suppliers.

The problem is the latest setback for the best-selling model after a weekend recall affecting more than half the A320-family fleet for repairs triggered by a software vulnerability to solar flares.

India offers medical help to ailing Khaleda Zia

NEW DELHI/DHAKA, DHNS/PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday offered New Delhi's support for the medical care of Bangladesh National Party (BNP) leader Begum Khaleda Zia, as the three-time former prime minister remained in a critical condition in a Dhaka hospital.

Khaleda, 80, was admitted to a private hospital on November 23 after developing a chest infection that affected both her heart and lungs. Her condition deteriorated steadily, and she was later shifted to the coronary care unit. Party leaders said she has since been placed on ventilation for respiratory support, with both local and international specialists overseeing her treatment.

"She is in a very critical condition. There is nothing more to do except seek prayers from the whole nation," BNP Vice-Chairman Advocate Ahmed Aazam Khan told reporters outside Evercare Hospital in Dhaka. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir confirmed that her condition remained grave.

Expressing concern, Modi posted on X: "Deeply concerned to learn about the health of Begum Khaleda Zia, who has contributed to Bangladesh's public life for many years. Our sincere prayers and best wishes for her speedy recovery. India stands ready to extend all possible support, in whatever way we can."

New Delhi's ties with Dhaka were strained during Khaleda's terms as prime minister, when her government allowed Indian militant groups from India to establish camps in Bangladesh. More recently, her party accused India of sheltering Sheikh Hasina as they allegedly conspired to destabilise Bangladesh.

WHO backs GLP-1 treatments to tackle obesity epidemic

GENEVA, AFP: A range of blockbuster weight-loss and diabetes drugs could help shift the trajectory of the global obesity epidemic, which affects more than one billion people worldwide, the World Health Organisation said on Monday.

A new generation of appetite-suppressing drugs called GLP-1 agonists—including the blockbuster brands Ozempic and Mounjaro — has become hugely popular in recent years.

On Monday, the United Nations health agency issued its first guidelines on how such drugs could be used as a key tool for treating obesity in adults as a chronic, relapsing disease.

More than 3.7 million people died from illnesses related to being overweight or obese in 2022, according to WHO figures — more than top infectious killers malaria, tuberculosis and HIV combined.

The number of people living with obesity will double by 2030 unless decisive action is taken to stem the rise, the agency estimates. "Obesity is one of the most serious public health challenges of our time," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in Geneva on Monday.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy kisses his wife Olena Zelenska as France's President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron look on at the Elysee palace in Paris on Monday. AFP

4 men charged with child abuse videos tied to international ring

▸ Four Sydney men have been charged with criminal offenses over their alleged involvement in the distribution of child sexual abuse material linked to an international child sex abuse ring, AP/PTI reports from Melbourne.

A New South Wales state police task force identified the Sydney-based network while investigating the online distribution of encrypted child sexual abuse material involving ritualistic and satanic themes, Det Supt Jayne Doherty said. "There's no run-of-the mill child abuse, it's all abhorrent child abuse," Doherty told reporters. "But these ones were particularly devastating in that they use symbols and rituals around ... their discussions that they were having about abusing children. It had a very ritualistic overview," she added. Police executed multiple warrants around Sydney last Thursday and four men were arrested. Police also seized electronic devices allegedly containing thousands of videos depicting the abuse of children from babies to 12-year-olds.

ICC prez vows to resist US, Russia

▸ The president of the International Criminal Court said during the institution's annual meeting Monday that it will not bow to pressure from the US and Russia, AP/PTI reports from The Hague.

Nine staff members, including six judges and the court's chief prosecutor, have been sanctioned by US President Donald Trump for pursuing investigations into US and Israeli officials, while Moscow has issued warrants for staff in response to an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin over the war in Ukraine. "We never accept any kind of pressure," Judge Tomoko Akane told delegations from the court's 125 member states. The sanctions have taken their toll on the court's work across a broad array of investigations.

Pope Leo XIV addresses the crowd during a meeting with bishops, priests consecrated persons and personal workers in Beirut on Monday. AFP

UK cops identify murdered Indian

▸ The UK police force investigating the murder of a 30-year-old Indian student formally named him as Vijay Kumar on Monday, along with a renewed appeal for information and release of his family's tribute to the "energy, joy and laughter" he brought to their lives, PTI reports from London.

West Mercia Police had earlier revealed that Vijay was found by officers on Barbourne Road in Worcester, central England, with serious injuries and died in hospital last Tuesday. Five men arrested on suspicion of his murder remain on bail as the police investigation remains ongoing. "We continue to appeal to anyone who has any information that would help with our enquiries," the police said. Vijay Kumar Sheoran hailed from Jagrambas village in Haryana.

Court rejects Imran's sister plea

▸ A Pakistan anti-terror court on Monday rejected a petition filed by former premier Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan to drop anti-terror charges against her, PTI reports from Islamabad.

The charges were part of a case filed against Aleema for participating in a protest in November 2024 called by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan. A case was registered at Sadiqabad police station in Rawalpindi in which Aleema, along with 11 others, were named as an accused and was charged with illegal protest, chanting anti-government slogans, vandalism, and stone-pelting. Aleema had moved the Rawalpindi-based anti-terror court, seeking the exclusion of terrorism charges under Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/RE/2025-26/IFT No.107/4544 Date: 01-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF THIRD PARTY CONSULTANTS (Through KPP Portal Only)

V.T.U., Belagavi Proposes to undertake Construction of Various Buildings at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi & Regional & P.G. Centres at Kalaburagi, Mysuru, Muddenahalli, Bengaluru, Davanagere, Dandeli, Chintamani, Mangaluru & Talakal etc., It is intended to Empanel Third Party Inspection Consultants for a period of 3 (Three) Years from Qualified, Experienced and Registered Firm / Engineering Consultants, who satisfy the criteria mentioned bid documents through KPPP only. For details please log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 02-12-2025.** Last Date of Submission on **15-12-2025 upto 4.00 PM.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/1411/Adverto/2025-26

BENGALURU-MYSURU INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No: BMICAPA/CLU-03/58/2025-26/2073 Date: 01-12-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

M/s. Sriranga Educational Trust, Authorized by Smt. S. Lalithalakshmi W/o. A.C. Shanmugam has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Commercial"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No: **3/RS2** extent of 2.38.00 Guntas, **Sy.No: 3/RS3** extent of 0.22.00 Guntas, **Sy.No: 80/RS1** extent of 0.10.00.80 Guntas and **Sy.No: 80/RS2** extent of 0.16.06.40 Guntas of **Madaapuradoddi Village,** Athaguru Hobli, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture Zone** in Approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) By developing the Commercial Projects in the above said lands, General Public will get jobs and Trade / Business transaction.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Commercial complexes in the above said land.
4) By planned layout public are benefitted with the civic amenities such as good Roads, Parks etc.,
5) By the development of Commercial areas the Government will get revenue in the form of Various taxes.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his / her objection to **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru** in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/4134/Adverto/2025-26

Office of the Principal District and Sessions Judge,
Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru
No. ACCTS/47/2025-26 (Xerox Outsource Bengaluru) Date: 21.11.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

This office invites e-bidding for proposals through e-portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/Auctions/live** from eligible private Xerox operators for providing Photocopier Services by installing copier machines along with operators: **(1) In the office of the Prl. District & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru. (2) In the office of the Prl. Senior Civil Judge, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru. (3) In the office of the Prl. Civil Judge, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru. Court Complex, Bengaluru Rural (i.e., Men & Machine Work Services) on Cost/Rate per page basis, in Paisa and Rupees for a period of one year (Service period may be extended for two or more years (Total 3 years) renewable each year).** Tender Number (as issued by KPPP): HCK/2025-26/SE0103. Estimated Approx. Total Tender Cost: **Rs.25,00,000/-** per annum. EMD: **Rs. 50,000/-**. Last date and time for submission of Tender Proposal: **10.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: Technical Bid: **11.12.2025 at 5.01 PM.** Financial Bid: **Upon approval of Technical Bid.** For further details contact: Phone No.: 080-22939382. E-mail: **bngrur002@gmail.com**

Sd/- I/c. Chief Administrative Officer,
District and Sessions Court, Bengaluru Rural District,
DIPR/DD-C.P/4124/KSMCA/2025-26 **Bengaluru.**

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
Kempegowda Bus Station Division

No: KST/KBS/COM-4/777/2025-26 Date: 28/11/2025

Housekeeping E-TENDER NOTIFICATION No-12/2025-26

Applications are invited from interested parties through Karnatak Public Procurement Portal from **02.12.2025 to 22.12.2025** for selecting licensees for maintenance of Urinals and Toilets and mechanized / non mechanized Housekeeping services at Mysuru Road Bus Station pertaining to Kempegowda Bus Station Division, KSRTC for a period of **Three (3) years**. The selection is based on the **Highest bid** for entire Bus Station. The e-tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the tender notice can be viewed on the KSRTC website at **ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in.** For further information, please contact the Divisional Office, KSRTC, Kempegowda Bus Station Division, Bangalore-560009, during office hours. Contact phone numbers are 7760990554, 7760990557 and KPP portal helpline numbers are 9240214000/9240214001/8068948777/8046010000, support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
Senior Divisional Controller
KBS Division, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4142/AKAR/2025-26

Russia slams Nato over preemptive strike issue

MOSCOW, PTI

Russia on Monday termed a senior Nato official's remarks about the permissibility of preemptive strikes on Moscow as "irresponsible" and warned about the potential risks to the Western military bloc's member states.

"We regard Admiral Cavo Dragone's remarks about the possibility of preemptive strikes against Russia as extremely irresponsible," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said.

She was reacting to Nato Military Committee Chair Italian Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone's interview with the London-based Financial Times. "Nato considers being 'more aggressive' against Russia's hybrid warfare and a preemptive strike, in some circumstances, could be viewed as 'defensive action'," Admiral Cavo Dragone said in his interview with FT.

Zakharova said these statements should be viewed as a deliberate attempt to undermine ongoing efforts aimed at resolving the Ukraine crisis. "Those who allow themselves such rhetoric must clearly understand the risks and potential consequences that would arise, including for the alliance's own member states," she said in an obvious reference to recent changes in the Russian nuclear doctrine.

DIGITAL CULTURE

Oxford varsity press names 'rage bait' as word of 2025

LONDON, AP/PTI

Oxford University Press has named "rage bait" as its word of the year, capturing the internet zeitgeist of 2025. The phrase refers to online content that is "deliberately designed to elicit anger or outrage by being frustrating, provocative or offensive," with the aim of driving traffic to a particular social media account, Oxford said in a statement.

"The person producing it will bask in the millions, quite often, of comments and shares and even likes sometimes," lexicographer Susie Dent told the BBC. This is a result of the algorithms used by social media companies, "because although we love fluffy cats, we'll appreciate that we tend to engage more with negative content and content that really provokes us."

Rage bait topped two other contenders — "aura farming" and "biohack" — after public comment on a shortlist compiled by lexicographers. "Aura farming" means to cultivate a public image by presenting oneself in "a way intended subtly to convey an air of confidence." "Biohack" is defined as "an attempt to improve or optimize one's physical or mental performance, health or longevity."

Actress and director Jodie Foster receives the Tribute Award during the 22nd Marrakech International Film Festival in Marrakech on Sunday. AFP

IN BRIEF

Amazon to open two new micro-fulfilment centres a day

BENGALURU, DHNS: E-commerce giant Amazon is accelerating the expansion of its 10-minute delivery service Amazon Now by opening two new micro-fulfilment centres a day. By the year-end, it will have over 300 micro-fulfilment centres, offering ultra-fast 10-minute deliveries to more pin codes in Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai.

Earlier this year, Amazon Now was launched in Bengaluru, and it expanded its service to three cities ahead of the festive season, with 100 micro-fulfilment centres. Amazon has added many more to meet growing customer demand for ultra-fast deliveries, especially among Prime members, who have tripled their shopping frequency after starting to use Amazon Now, the e-commerce firm said.

FDI rises 18% to $35.18 billion

NEW DELHI, PTI: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India rose 18% to $35.18 billion during April-September, this fiscal, while the inflow from the US more than doubled to $6.62 billion during the first half of this fiscal, according to government data released on Monday.

FDI during April-September FY24 stood at $29.79 billion. During the June-September quarter of 2025-26, the inflows increased by over 21% year-on-year to $16.55 billion.

Country's CAD narrows to 1.3% of GDP in Q2: RBI

MUMBAI, PTI: India's CAD narrowed to $12.3 billion or 1.3% of GDP in September quarter on the back of a reduction in the trade deficit, higher services exports and higher remittances by the diaspora, the RBI said on Monday.

The CAD stood at $20.8 billion, or 2.2% of GDP a year ago. However, it was just $2.4 billion or 0.2% of the GDP in the preceding June quarter.

Industrial output growth slips to 14-month low in October

Fewer working days as fests hit production, says govt

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Growth in industrial output slipped to a 14-month low of 0.4% in October, dragged by contraction in electricity and mining production and a sharp slowdown in manufacturing activities, official data showed on Monday.

Factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), had posted a growth of 3.7% in October 2024. The September data has been revised upward to 4.6%.

The October 2025 IIP growth figure is the lowest since August 2024, when it had come in at 0%.

Manufacturing output growth slumped to 1.8% in October, from 5.6% recorded in the previous month. There was contraction in the other two segments of the IIP. Electricity production in October was 6.9% lower, when compared with the same month last year, while mining output contracted by 1.8% year-on-year.

"The slow growth in the month could be attributed to less number of working days because of a number of festivals in the month, including Dasara, Dipavali, and Chhath," the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation stated.

Cumulative growth in industrial production in the April-October period of the current fiscal stood at 2.7% year-on-year.

All of the six use-based segments witnessed a deterioration in their year-on-year performance in October 2025 relative to September 2025. Consumer durables output contracted by 0.5%, following the 10% surge seen in September 2025. Besides, the extent of the contraction in consumer non-durables also widened sharply between these months.

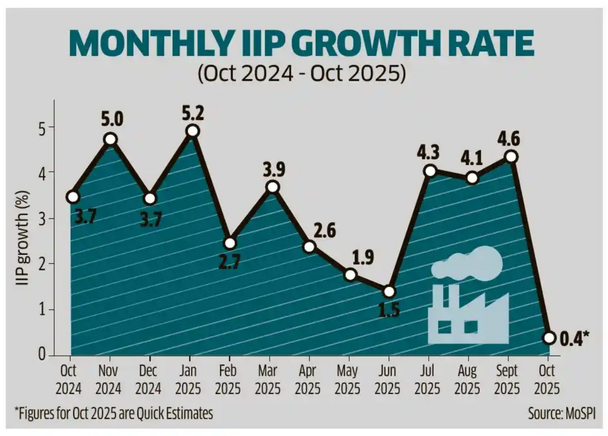
"The GST rate cut led to an upswing in manufacturing output in September 2025, and was followed by a respite in October 2025 given the festive holidays. Besides, the adverse impact of the US tariffs and penalties is also likely to have impacted production across some manufacturing sub-segments," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA.

"Given the base effects and the shifts in the festive calendar in 2025 vis-à-vis 2024, it would be more prudent to assess the average for October and November, once the data for the latter month becomes available," she added.

According to Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist at Crisil, a substantial decline in merchandise exports (by 11.8% on-year), some moderation in government capex (which was frontloaded to the first half of the fiscal) and fewer working days in October were the key reasons for the weak IIP numbers in October.

On industrial production outlook, Deshpande said, "For the entire third quarter, however, we expect sturdy consumption demand to somewhat offset the negative impact of weaker export demand and benefit the manufacturing sector. Robust rural incomes, low inflation, reduced interest rates and the push to consumption from tax relief should keep consumption healthy."

"The government, though, is likely to moderate its capex in the second half to meet its fiscal deficit target amid subdued tax collections," she added.



Mfg output growth slips to 9-month low in Nov

High US tariffs drag export orders; biz confidence hit

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's manufacturing output growth slipped to a 9-month low in November, as high US tariffs dragged export orders and the impact of the GST rate rationalisation faded, as per an industry survey report released by S&P Global on Monday.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing fell to 56.6 in November, from 59.2 in the previous month.

Production and sales of manufactured products in November posted weakest growth since February. New export orders slumped to the lowest level in 13 months.

"India's final November PMI confirmed that US tariffs caused the manufacturing expansion to slow," said HSBC Chief India Economist Pranjul Bhandari.

Weak demands hit job creation and business confidence. In November, the pace of job creation was the slowest in 21 months.

"Manufacturers in India adjusted their hiring efforts and purchasing activity in line with a slowdown in new order growth. The latter saw its weakest upturn since February. Meanwhile, employment expanded at the softest pace in the current 21-month period of uninterrupted growth," S&P Global noted in its monthly report.

The S&P Global report, which is based on a survey conducted among around 400 manufacturing firms, indicates the fading impact of the goods and service tax (GST) rate rationalisation on demand. Boosted by pent-up domestic demands, manufacturing PMI in October had hit a five-year high.

As part of the GST rate rationalisation, the government substantially reduced taxes on a large number of products effective from September 22. The GST rate cuts and festive demands boosted manufacturing activities in October.

EXPORT BITE

- PMI for manufacturing falls to **56.6** in Nov, from **59.2** in the previous month
- Production and sales of manufactured goods in Nov post weakest growth since Feb
- GST rate cuts and festive demands boost manufacturing activities in Oct
- Concerns around a competitive landscape hit sentiments

"Business confidence, as indicated by expectations for future output, showed a big fall in November, potentially reflecting increasing concerns about the impact of tariffs. The boost from the cuts in GST may be fading and it might be insufficient to offset the tariff headwind to demand," said Bhandari.

Concerns around a competitive landscape, including competition from international firms, have hit business sentiments.

November's results showed an absence of pressure on the capacity of Indian manufacturers and their suppliers. Outstanding business volumes among goods producers were broadly unchanged from October, whereas vendor performance continued to improve.

Inflation rates receded in November, with input costs and selling charges rising at the slowest rates in nine and eight months, respectively.

While new business growth and efficiency gains supported an increase among some firms, others suggested that subdued demand for some of their products constrained output levels at their units, S&P Global noted in the report.

Automakers report brisk sales in November on robust demand

NEW DELHI, PTI: With demand continuing to be strong post the festive season, leading automakers, Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Mahindra, saw robust growth in sales in November, as compared to the same month last year.

Maruti Suzuki India reported the best-ever total sales, including exports, last month at 2,29,021 units, a year-on-year growth of 26% as compared to November last year.

Total domestic passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers were at 1,70,971 units, compared to 1,41,312 units in the year-ago month, an increase of 21%. Overall sales, including LCV Super Carry, in the domestic market rose 21% to 1,74,593 units.

The carmaker said that it witnessed sales growth in all segments, including small cars and SUVs, last month.

MSI Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Partho Banerjee said retail growth was even better, at 31% year-on-year, in November.

He noted that retail sales of its small car portfolio witnessed an increase of 37% in November. Banerjee stated that the company saw a growth in SUV sales as well, with the segment now accounting for 30% of the overall sales.

The company reported the highest-ever shipment of 46,057 units last month, a growth of 61% as compared to the same month last year.

Banerjee stated that with demand expected to remain strong, the company is trying to augment production and expects the industry to log in a growth of 5-6% in the current fiscal.

Taking second spot, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles reported a dispatch of 57,436 units in the domestic market, registering a growth of 22%, compared to 47,063 units sold a year ago.

M&M saw its vehicle dispatch rise to 56,336 units, a growth of 22% over the year-ago period.

Rate cuts hit GST revenue; Gross collection up 0.7%

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Rate rationalisation has impacted the revenue collection from GST with gross mop-up sliding to Rs 1.70 lakh crore in November, from a high of Rs 1.95 lakh crore recorded in the previous month, official data showed on Monday.

The gross GST revenue collection in November was just 0.7% higher when compared with the same month last year. The November collection was substantially lower than the average collection of Rs 1.86 lakh crore recorded in the first seven months of the current fiscal.

Cumulative gross GST revenue collection in the April-November 2025 period stood at Rs 14.75 lakh crore, which is 8.9% higher when compared with the corresponding period of the last year.

Net GST revenue (after deducting refunds) stood at Rs 1.52 lakh crore in November, showing a growth of 1.3%. In the first eight months of the current fiscal, net GST revenue collection was recorded at Rs 12.79 lakh crore, which is 7.3% higher over the corresponding period last year.

According to analysts, a substantial cut in rates as part of the GST reforms announced in September has impacted tax collection. The November collection data reflects the sales volume of October, which was the first full month after the implementation of the GST rate cut. The reduced GST rates came into effect from September 22.

"While the GST collections were expected to moderate due to the steep rate cuts across the board, there was an expectation of a consumption boost on account of these rate cuts," said MS Mani, Partner at Deloitte India, adding that the loss on account of rate reductions have not been compensated by higher consumption at the expected scale.

"While the GDP data indicates a robust growth, the GST collections over the next four months would indicate whether the FY26 fiscal targets can be met as planned," Mani said.

Pratik Jain, Partner, Price Waterhouse & Co LLP, expressed hope that the government's tax collection would remain steady in the coming months.

"GST collection for November is only marginally higher than last year. It was expected as this reflects a full month's (i.e October 25) impact of GST 2.0 rate cuts. With steady increase in demand, the collection should progressively become better in next few months," he said.

'SIM binding on messaging apps will curb cyber fraud'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The government on Monday said SIM binding was essential to prevent cyber fraud. It has issued an order to messaging apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, and Arattai among others to mandatorily carry out SIM binding.

Cyber-fraud losses are pegged at over Rs 22,800 crore in 2024 alone. The Department of Telecom said that SIM-binding directions are essential to plug a concrete security gap that cybercriminals are exploiting to run large-scale, often cross-border, digital frauds. As per new rule issued by the DoT, the messaging platforms like WhatsApp or Telegram should continuously check whether the SIM card used to register the account is still physically present and active in the user's device or not. Currently, once you set up WhatsApp or Telegram using an OTP, the app continues to work even if you remove the SIM or put it in a different phone. The government wants this behaviour to stop.

According to new norms, if the registered SIM is removed, replaced, or becomes inactive, the app would immediately stop functioning. This brings a constant verification layer that goes much deeper than OTP-based registration.

Apps will need to keep checking the IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identity), which is a unique number stored in every SIM. Since IMSI is tied to the subscriber at a global level, the government believes enforcing IMSI checks will help reduce misuse. The direction does not affect the cases where the SIM is present in the handset, and the user is on roaming, the Ministry of Communications assured in a release.

"These uniform, enforceable directions under the Telecom Cyber Security Rules are a proportionate measure to prevent misuse of telecom identifiers, ensure traceability, and protect citizens' trust in India's digital ecosystem", the government emphasised.

Device binding and automatic session logout are widely used in banking and payment apps to prevent account takeover, session hijacking and misuse from untrusted devices and accordingly extended to app-based communication platforms that are now "central to cyber frauds".

Bitcoin plunges below $86k; may reclaim $90k–92k level

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The largest cryptocurrency by market cap, Bitcoin, plunged to below $86,000 on Monday amid a broad market sell-off. Exchanges said the cryptocurrency might shed more in the coming weeks as the next FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting will be held on December 9, and US Fed Chair Jerome Powell will make the monetary policy announcement on December 10.

Bitcoin has lost over 5% in the past 24 hours, and it was trading at $85,364.79 on Monday evening. "Total crypto market capitalisation slipped 4.4% to $2.94 trillion, while trading volumes spiked 38%, reflecting panic-driven liquidations as over $300 million in leveraged longs were wiped out," Delta Exchange Research Analyst Riya Sehgal said.

Altcoins followed, with Ethereum, Solana, and XRP dropping between 5% and 6%, underscoring the risk-off sentiment sweeping across digital assets. The break below key technical support near $89,500 has shifted Bitcoin's short-term outlook toward further downside, with potential retests of $85,500 or even $82,000 if selling persists.

"Still, structurally, this appears more like a leverage flush-out than a fundamental breakdown. Once excess leverage clears, Bitcoin could stabilise and attempt to reclaim the $90,000–$92,000 zone in the sessions ahead," he added.

"Despite the pause in momentum, Bitcoin ETFs have posted their first week of net inflows since October, signaling a potential revival in institutional demand. Strengthening liquidity and improving market depth also support a constructive outlook. If sentiment stabilises, BTC could attempt its next leg higher. For now, $85,000 serves as key support, while $92,400 remains the immediate resistance," Mudrex Lead Quant Analyst Akshat Siddhant said.

According to crypto exchange WazirX, Bitcoin's price sits at a pivotal macro intersection. "First, a weakening dollar provides a liquidity tailwind. This doesn't guarantee upside, but it improves market conditions for a sustained bid. Growing divergence among central banks reinforces Bitcoin's status as a global macro alternative asset. Instead of trading purely on tech sentiment, BTC increasingly behaves like a cross-asset hedge against globally differing policies. That elevates its role in institutional portfolios during macro stress," the crypto exchange said.

Anil Ambani moves SC

NEW DELHI, PTI: Industrialist Anil Ambani has moved the Supreme Court challenging an order of the Bombay High Court, which upheld State Bank of India's (SBI) decision classifying his and Reliance Communications' accounts as fraud. The matter is yet to be listed for hearing.

The HC had on October 3 dismissed Ambani's plea challenging the SBI decision and said there was no merit in the plea.

The SBI had last year classified the accounts as fraud, alleging misappropriation of funds by entering into transactions that violated the terms of loans extended by it.

'NO MISUSE'

Musk backs H-1B visas, says US benefited immensely from Indian talent

NEW YORK, PTI

The US has been an "immense beneficiary" of talent from India, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has said, and voiced strong support for the H-1B visa programme, cautioning that shutting it down would "actually be very bad" for America.

The US tech billionaire made the remarks in an interview with investor and entrepreneur Nikhil Kamath on his podcast 'People by WTF', released on Sunday.

"Yes, I think America has benefited immensely from talented Indians who have come to America... America has been an immense beneficiary of talent from India," Musk said.

On the H-1B visa, the Tesla CEO said, while there has been some misuse of the work visa programme, he strongly believes that it should not be shut down. "It would be accurate to say that... some of the outsourcing companies have gamed the system on the H-1B front. And we need to stop the gaming of the system. But I'm certainly not in the school of thought that we should shut down the H-1B programme. That's where some on the Right are. I think they don't realise that that would actually be very bad," Musk said.

His comments come at a time when the US has launched a massive crackdown to check abuse of the H-1B visa programme, used extensively by American technology companies to employ foreign workers. Indian professionals, including technology workers and physicians, form one of the largest groups of H-1B visa-holders.

ELON SPEAK

- The US has benefited immensely from talent from Indian shores
- While there has been some misuse of the work visa programme, it should not be shut down
- Under the Biden administration, it was basically a total free-for-all, with no border controls
- Unless you've got border controls, you're not a country
- Message for young Indian entrepreneurs – "Respect for anyone who wants to build"

In September, US President Donald Trump issued a proclamation titled 'Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers' as an important initial step to reform the H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme. Under the proclamation, Trump announced a one-time fee of $100,000 on new H-1B visas, a move expected to impact Indian professionals seeking to work in the US.

Responding to a question on whether the US "seems to have become anti-immigration to a certain extent", Musk said there are different schools of thought on the issue, and there is no unanimity.

He, however, pointed out that under the Joe Biden administration, "it was basically a total free-for-all, with like no border controls, which, you know, unless you've got border controls, you're not a country".

Musk alleged there was "massive" illegal immigration under Biden, which created a negative selection effect.

"If there's a massive financial incentive to come to the US illegally and get all these government benefits, then you necessarily create a diffusion gradient for people to come to the US just as an incentive structure. I think that obviously made no sense," he said, stressing the need for border controls.

Musk said the Left wanted open borders, irrespective of the situation or "if the person coming in is a criminal", while the Right believed American jobs were being taken by highly-skilled workers from abroad.

"I don't know how real that is. My direct observation is that there's always a scarcity of talented people. So from my standpoint, I'm like, we have a lot of difficulty finding enough talented people to get these difficult tasks done, and so more talented people would be good," he said.

Musk noted that some companies are making it more of a cost thing, "where it's like, okay, if they can employ someone for a fraction of the cost of an American citizen, then I guess these other companies would hire people just to save costs".

However, at his companies, the tech billionaire said, they are just trying to get the most talented people in the world. "We pay way above average, so... that's not my experience, but that's what a lot of people do complain about," he said.

Asked what message he had for young Indian entrepreneurs, Musk said he respected "anyone who wants to build".

"Aim to make more than you take, be a net contributor to society... If you want to create something valuable... pursue providing useful products and services... then money will come as a natural consequence," he said.

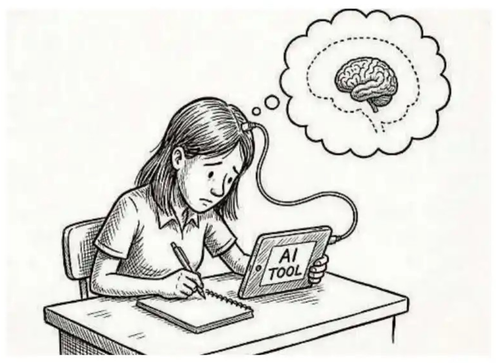
AI is fantastic. But what should you be using it for?

SAHANA PRASAD

"The next assessment component is a project, which includes data collection, analysis, and a report!" I announced. I expected shock, resentment, and dismay. But no, they were as cool as a cucumber! "I will be there to help, of course!" I announced, but no one was listening.

I don't think there is any need to tell what happened next. By the deadline, neat project reports were lined up, containing typical Artificial Intellligence-generated text, including the bold lettering! The truth came out very soon during viva, and long fancy titles exposed their inadequacies, and very obviously, their dependency on Gen AI. The nervous smiles, darting eyes, and inability to answer simple questions showed that it was just a copy-and-paste, without probably even reading their reports.

"What's wrong with that? Aren't AI tools supposed to make our work easy?" one might think. Yes, nothing wrong as long as we use AI as a



tool, not as our crutch, lest we forget how to walk. When we outsource all our thinking and analysis, our brains quiet down and grow quieter.

"Yes, I feel my learning has reduced to a large extent. I click a picture of my assignment questions and put it on Gen AI. It produces the answer in a jiffy, I have to write it down, as my professor insists on handwritten work!" admits Yamini, a third-semester engineering student. "If I didn't do that, I would be getting screenshots, or worse, a link to the solution!" jokes Prof Sarathy, her math faculty.

What is the most obvious problem with going for AI each time and not using our brains? "Brains take time to get active when we don't give them enough challenges," says Uma, a counsellor at a prestigious college. "It gets into the lazy mode and stays there."

"Let me be honest — AI is fantastic. It can explain concepts, give real-life examples, help draft ideas, clear doubts, and even generate practice questions. Imagine it as a friend who never gets irritated with your stupidity and who is always on call. But should that friend replace your thinking? Absolutely not. Because at the end of the day, it is what employers, viva panels, and life itself will test." I minced no words as I gave my feedback.

Just because you have Google Maps, will you be able to drive without knowing? If we blindly follow the app, we may end up in a lake, rather than a destination. AI is meant to give answers, but you should not stop asking questions. The entire point of education is to trigger your curiosity, prod you to explore, figure things out, make mistakes, and learn. Don't lean on AI when your feet can support you.

Will you open your smartphones when there is a problem at work, and many eyes are fixed on you at the brainstorming session? Maybe you can if your co-workers are glued to their phones too! But that isn't very likely in a real-world setting, not as of now.

So, use AI to spark your ideas, not smother them with the whole script. Use it to learn, not to escape the pangs of learning.

"Because years down the line, when you're handling projects, solving problems, leading teams, or making decisions, it won't be AI sitting in that chair with you. It'll be you, your mind, your judgment, your creativity, your confidence," says Arathi, who teaches psychology at a university." This can't be copied and pasted from anywhere!"

So go ahead, use AI. Just don't let it use you. Trust your intelligence, give your brain what it deserves.

(The author is an academic)

Saving academic language from decline

CBSE's advisory on minding the language in campuses is much-needed and timely, writes P John J Kennedy

Of late, educational institutions in India have been grappling with a very different concern — the use of inappropriate or trivialised language. This is not limited to college and university students but is noticed across the entire spectrum of India's education system.

Colleges, for instance, often report that students enrol for programmes with serious gaps in communication skills, a casual approach to academic writing, and a limited awareness of context-appropriate language. In the past, these were seen as minor issues. But today, institutions have realised that they are affecting learning quality, employability, and even campus culture.

Against this backdrop, the recent CBSE advisory, which highlights the presence of slang, disrespectful expressions, and social-media-driven distortions in classrooms, is not merely timely but part of a much larger challenge confronting Indian education.

It is common knowledge that what begins in school inevitably travels upward. College teachers often lament that many first-year undergraduates struggle to speak or write clearly, shift registers depending on the audience, or distinguish between informal online language and the expectations of academic discourse.

Seminar conversations, classroom submissions, and even official communication frequently resemble the clipped, emoji-punctuated tone of digital platforms. Blaming students alone for this would be unfair. On the contrary, it has to be seen how deeply popular culture, entertainment media, and the frenetic pace of online interaction have reshaped everyday speech.

And this is precisely why CBSE's intervention matters. To be effective, any reform must begin early. Schools are where children first learn not only grammar and vocabulary but also the social ethics of communication. Here, you learn how to disagree respectfully, how to listen, how to speak without hurting others, and how to build trust through words.

By drawing attention to slang that normalises disrespect, or expressions that trivialise serious issues, CBSE is driving home an important point: that language is not just a tool but a habit of mind. If young learners internalise careless or aggressive modes of expression, psychologists observe that these behaviours become difficult to unlearn later.

The concern, however, should not be moral panic. Instead, it is recognising that language is shaping and being shaped by a rapidly changing society. All stakeholders, including parents, teachers, and counsellors, report a growing gap between the structured world of curriculum and the unregulated world of social media. Today's students are exposed to a constant stream of content that rewards shock value, sarcasm, or instant reactions, often without reflection.

When the same culture enters the classroom, it inevitably causes serious harm. Attention span is reduced, and empathy is weakened, blurring the boundaries between peer talk and formal speech. As a result, academic institutions at every level are dealing with the fallout of a linguistic environment that may be exciting but also very disruptive.

Hence, the CBSE advisory should be viewed as an attempt to restore balance, rather than to police language. Schools cannot, and should not, shield children from their cultural worlds. But they can create an environment where they develop a sense of when informal language is harmless fun and when it becomes exclusionary, hurtful, or inappropriate.

Schools must help learners appreciate that language evolves continuously, but also teach them that evolution need not mean erosion. They must also equip children with the necessary confidence to communicate effectively across different contexts. Indeed, this is a skill that will ultimately serve them well in higher education and professional life.

How should higher educational institutions approach this advisory? Actually, it serves as a reminder of the foundational work students are expected to have received or missed by the time they arrive in colleges and universities. In fact, without early intervention, higher education institutions are likely to spend time repairing basic communication skills rather than developing advanced ones.

However, when schools take responsibility for nurturing respectful language practices, higher education institutions benefit from cohorts that are better prepared for extremely crucial 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, collaborative learning, and civic engagement.

This is why CBSE's new initiative deserves total support, because it also recognises and communicates an important message: the quality of language in the classroom, or even outside of it, is not a superficial issue but a reflection of deeper social and educational patterns. And it acknowledges that shaping responsible communicators begins long before students enter college. If schools genuinely comprehend the real import behind this move and take the lead, the entire education system, right up to universities, stands to gain.

(The writer is a former professor and dean, Christ University, Bengaluru)

BULLETIN BOARD

Opportunity for young researchers

Applications for Anveshana 2026 — a programme to nurture young researchers — are open for students across India in Classes 9–12, with the final deadline on January 15, 2026. The programme is free and offers 19 research projects across six domains, along with a yearlong immersive track. Screening tests will be held online from January 18–24, followed by interviews from January 28 to February 5. Selected students begin research in April 2026, with final presentations in August 2026. Apply at: www.prayoga.org.in/anveshana

Pankh Scholarship

Tata Capital is inviting applications from students of classes 11 and 12 with at least 60% marks and annual income less than Rs 2.5 lakh. Last date: December 26. Apply at: https://t.ly/_sHtC

Marketing and community operations internship

Elevated Leaders Club is hiring interns who can work from home and handle marketing, community and webinar operations. Students with knowledge of Canva, written and spoken English proficiency, Google Docs, Google Sheets, interpersonal skills, MS-Excel, MS-Word, sales support, and social media marketing can apply by December 25. The stipend is Rs 4,000-5,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/qtFlz.

Blockchain internship

SelfCode Academy is hiring a blockchain course developer and instructor interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Blockchain, Ethereum, Solidity, spoken English proficiency, and teaching skills can apply by December 25. The stipend is Rs 20,000 - 30,000 lump sum. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/bYqj1.

UX/UI Design Internship

Brandshark is hiring UX/UI design interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of UI & UX Design, Adobe XD, Illustrator, and Photoshop can apply by December 25. The stipend is Rs 10,000 / month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/ejXBD.

Web development internship

365Build Technologies (I) Private Limited is hiring web development interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of Bootstrap, CSS, HTML, JavaScript, and React can apply by December 25. The stipend is Rs 14,000-16,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/k2c5x.

Suggestions? Feedback? Observations?
Email us:
dheducation@deccanherald.co.in

Switch off and recharge during study hours

ALVINA CLARA

Only studies and no play will certainly make Jack a dull boy! This adage, with a twist, is more relevant today than ever before. A balance between studies and leisure activities is so important for students.

A student I know, aged 13, spent hours a day studying, to the point that obesity set in. A sedentary lifestyle manifested in overeating and disturbed sleep, which gradually led to a rapid decline in his health. Due to obesity, normal walking and house errands became quite difficult for him. His overtly competitive mindset to score high made him aloof and distant from his peers. He progressed academically, but scored low on the pro-social parameters.

Is so much pressure in the race to stand first in class worth one's health and happiness?

At times, continuous study can feel like running a marathon and demand constant attention for attending lectures, answering questions, completing assignments, and long study sessions for exams. It all boils down to one question: Is so much pressure and stress worth it at such a young age? Can't there be a switch-off option, where your mind is free to do nothing, wander amidst the calmness of nature or relax to soothing music?

Research has shown that grinding through study and tasks around the clock to chase high scores leaves us exhausted and harms our well-being. Rushing from one subject or chapter to another without a break can be physically exhausting and mentally draining.

Offloading your mind from constant study pressure now and then is essential for occasional relaxation and

refreshment. Spending some time doing nothing is not a sin and will help you power your mind to read and learn the next set of chapters. Here are a few ways to switch off and recharge your mind and body.

- **Honour break time:** Use breaks to do something refreshing — sip green tea, do yoga or exercise, take a short walk, or simply meditate. Short, meaningful breaks during peak study hours are known to improve focus and concentration when you return to studying. Also, a short nap (10–20 minutes) can restore energy and attention for the next study session.
- **Stay calm:** Allow your mind to rest for a few minutes after intense study sessions. It can help you process what you've learned. Ensure your space is tidy with a comfortable chair, a glass of water, and a calm environment. Sitting quietly and taking deep breaths offers a brief mental reset that drastically reduces stress.
- **Take off:** Plan a few days off in a week from heavy study, depending on your timetable or schedule. Use these times to pursue activities and hobbies you enjoy or explore new interests — sports, gardening, biking, or other social activities. Taking time away can give you a fresh perspective and boost motivation to do even better when you return to coursework.
- **Stick to a healthy routine:** Create a study schedule that includes built-in breaks, leisure activities, nutritious meals and adequate sleep. Schedule lighter tasks between study blocks to prevent fatigue, such as a 10-minute break every 50 minutes of study. Stay hydrated, eat balanced meals, and move your body. Physical activity does enhance cognitive function.
- **Be calm during exams:** Always prepare for the worst and hope for the best. Believe you can and will excel. Indulge in breathing exercises or meditation to reduce stress or anxiety before tests or exams. Set aside a few minutes each day to address your apprehensions or concerns, instead of letting them interrupt your concentration.
- **Weekly review:** Plan a weekly review to catch up on what you've learned and what is pending. Adjust upcoming study goals to cover the remaining syllabus. Also, make it a point to schedule restorative activity during weekends — outdoor time, creative projects, or games with friends.

Lastly, remind yourself, "It's okay to take a break and that a refreshed mind learns better." Striking a balance between study and rest is a smart approach to learning. With a calm mind, pre-planned routines, and moments of play, every learner can achieve without sacrificing well-being. When students allow themselves regular breaks, physical activity, and time for hobbies, they protect their health, strengthen their focus, and nurture creativity. Remember, progress is measured not just by scores, but by overall growth and well-being and the joy of learning something new each day.

When it's a battle between a better career and family...

MAULLIKA SHARMA

Every year, thousands of young professionals step into the workforce with ambition in their hearts — but many carry something heavier on their backs: the weight of being the "good child." In a country where family duty is often placed above individual choice, even the most promising opportunities can become tangled in guilt, shame, and a fear of disappointing parents. Let us explore these hidden emotional battles today in this article — because career growth is one thing, but growing into yourself is another.

Sanjay had just received an exciting job offer in a field he was genuinely passionate about. He knew the assignment had excellent prospects and could significantly boost his career. But there was one challenge — it was in a different city. Instead of feeling thrilled, he found himself overwhelmed with guilt and shame at the thought of moving out of his parental home. His parents expected him to stay with them.

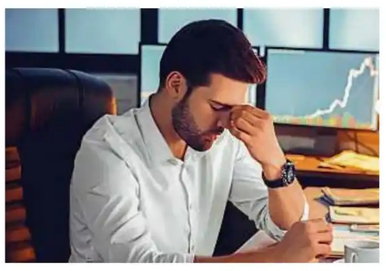
To be a "good son," he believed, he needed to remain physically present. The mere idea of living elsewhere made him feel as though he was betraying them. When he tentatively asked for "permission" to accept the offer, they said no. They needed him around, they told him. He had to build his life from their home.

This scenario, and many similar ones, often show up in the therapy room. Young men, especially, feel burdened by guilt and shame for pursuing personal or professional goals that require them to individuate from their parents. Whether it is choosing a job, a place of stay, or even a partner, any step toward autonomy feels like a violation of what being a "good son" is supposed to mean.

But are these feelings of guilt and shame justified — or misplaced? And if they're not appropriate, what emotion might be?

To understand this, it helps to look closely at what guilt and shame really are.

Guilt arises when you believe you've done something wrong or failed to live up to something you "should" have



done. The word "should" is key—it is shaped by external, socially dictated norms and often differs from what you genuinely want.

Shame, on the other hand, is the emotion you feel when you judge yourself harshly. It tells you that you are the problem — that you are not "good enough" as a person because of what you did or didn't do.

Neither emotion is necessary nor accurate in the situation Sanjay faces. Accepting a job that offers better career prospects does not make him a bad son or a lesser human being. In fact, professional success is often something parents genuinely want for their children. And caring for parents does not always require physical proximity. Emotional closeness can be maintained across distances, and caregiving can take multiple forms — including coordinating or arranging support rather than providing it personally.

Seeking parental approval does not have to come at the cost of your personal and professional well-being. You can only care for others without resentment, anger, or suffocation when your own needs are met. And the definition of "good enough" need not be prescribed by society. It is something you have the right to define for yourself.

In situations like this, a more appropriate emotion is regret—a feeling of sadness or disappointment that you cannot be in two places at once, or that you cannot simultaneously attend to your parents' physical needs and pursue opportunities elsewhere. Regret allows space to accept reality without condemning yourself.

As Bill Crawford puts it: "Regret acknowledges that I made a mistake. Shame says that I am a mistake, and guilt is what others use to try to make me feel ashamed."

Regret helps us access the confident, creative part of our brain. It acknowledges that we may have erred, but it does not label us as failures, as guilt and shame often do.

So how do you move guilt and shame aside to make room for regret? There isn't a universal checklist. This is work best done in therapy with a trusted therapist — someone who can help you experience the difference for yourself and feel the lightness that comes when the burden finally begins to lift.

(The author is a counsellor and wellness coach)

Bano, Kanika trebles help India run riot

SANTIAGO (CHILE), AGENCIES: India began their FIH Junior Women's World Cup campaign with a comprehensive 13-0 win against Namibia at the Estadio Nacional in Santiago on Monday.

Hina Bano (35th, 35th, 45th) and Kanika Siwach (12th, 30th, 45th) scored hat-tricks, while Sakshi Rana (10th, 23th) bagged a brace. Binima Dhan (14th), Sonam (14th), Sakshi Shukla (27th), Ishika (36th), and Manisha (60th) also got on the scoresheet. With this win, India climbed to the top of the table.

India sprang into action from the get-go, registering their first shot on target and forcing a save out of the Namibia keeper in the opening thirty seconds of this contest. They remained on the front foot in search of a goal, earning a Penalty Corner with close to six minutes to go in the first quarter. They eventually made the early pressure count and bagged four goals in as many minutes to take control of the game.

Sakshi opened the scoring in the 10th minute with a brilliant reverse flick and Kanika doubled their lead two minutes later with a powerful finish. Binima (14th) soon added a third with a sharp run and finish while Sonam scored the fourth second later after some neat interplay in the buildup.

With a healthy lead, India continued to dominate as Sakshi (23rd) scored her second with a superb run that was finished off with a thunderous strike. Namibia showed some aggression to look for an opening but were constantly kept at bay by the Indian midfielders' dominating position.

Result: India: 13 (Sakshi Rana 10th, 23rd, Kanika Siwach 12th, 30th, 45th, Binima Dhan 14th, Sonam 14th, Sakshi Shukla 27th, Hina Bano 35th, 35th, 45th, Ishika 36th, Manisha 60th) bt Namibia: 0.

Hina Bano

HOCKEY MEN'S JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Swiss challenge for India

Hosts go into last pool match with quarterfinal spot at stake

MOHAMED FARZAN
MADURAI

Hosts India will take on Switzerland in the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025 Pool B match at the Madurai International Hockey Stadium here on Tuesday.

Both teams played their previous matches in Chennai and will have their first taste of the newly-built stadium, posing a fresh challenge.

With the quarterfinals position at stake, both teams will have to put their best foot forward. The two teams have six points each, having won both their group stage encounters. However, the Indian Colts are placed at the top of the standings with a better goal difference of 24.

India, the two-time champion (2001 and 2016), began their campaign with a commanding 7-0 victory over Chile followed by an emphatic 17-0 win against Oman.

The positives for the team heading into the contest are its goal-scoring ability, with 24 goals which is the highest by any team in this edition so far. India were able to breach Chile and Oman's defences with ease and had 111 (38 vs Chile and 73 vs Oman) circle penetrations.

"In this format, we need to have that kind of mentality (to score more goals)," said head coach PR Sreejesh in the pre-match press conference. "League round matches are open, and quarterfinal slots are allotted based on your wins and goal average. When preparing for the quarterfinals, we need to go with the attitude that we need to score more goals irrespective of the opponent we play."

The Sreejesh-coached team also has a rock-solid defensive lineup and has kept clean sheets against both opponents so far. However, Sreejesh denied claims that the team's defence has not been tested yet.

"Our goalkeepers made good saves. The defence has done a wonderful job. We conceded many penalty corners as well. There are areas where we need to worry about, and we are looking into those areas now," the 37-year-old former Indian goalkeeper said.

Hosts India have been the dominant team in the FIH Men's Junior World Cup so far with 24 goals in two pool matches, including 17-0 win over Oman in their last match. PTI

PC conversion concerns

However, the Indian team faces a major concern that it will have to address before facing the European nation. The Rohit-led side could convert just seven of the 26 penalty corners it earned during the previous two encounters.

Debutants Switzerland got off to a winning start against Oman with a 4-0 score. In their second encounter, they defeated Chile 3-2, solely relying on penalty corner conversions, with three goals in four chances. Mattia Ribaudo will hold the key for Switzerland with a must-win encounter ahead of them.

With a 50 per cent penalty corner conversion rate, the Swiss side will heavily rely on PCs to stun World No. 2 India. The European outfit has converted five out of 10 penalty corners it earned.

Although qualification is firmly within India's grasp, the hosts will aim to finish the group stage on a positive note. Meanwhile, a win for Switzerland would see them secure a top spot in the pool and a quarterfinals spot, while a loss or draw would leave them relying on other teams' points and a score difference.

Today's fixtures: In Madurai: Pool D: Spain vs Namibia (11:00 am); Egypt vs Belgium (1:15 pm). **Pool E:** Netherlands vs Austria (3:30 pm); England vs Malaysia (5:45 pm). **Pool B:** India vs Switzerland (8:00 pm) **In Chennai: Pool B:** Chile vs Oman (1:30 pm); **Pool F:** France vs Bangladesh (3:45 pm); Korea vs Australia (6:00 pm).

Duplantis, Sydney win WA laurels

Wanyonyi wins track award, Nicola best in women's field

MONACO, AFP

Sweden's world pole vault champion Armand Duplantis poses with the World Athlete of the Year and male field athlete awards. REUTERS

Swedish pole vault star Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis and US track sensation Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone were named Athletes of the Year by World Athletics in Monaco on Sunday.

Duplantis, 26, set four pole vault records in 2025 as he won world titles both indoors and outdoors.

He was unbeaten in 16 competitions and became the first men's pole vaulter in modern history to go undefeated for two successive years.

Duplantis cleared 6.30 metres at the world championships in Tokyo after successfully retaining his title as he broke the world record for the 14th time in his career.

It is the third time that Duplantis has scooped the overall prize for the world's top athlete. He also won it in 2020 and 2022.

McLaughlin-Levrone ran the second fastest time ever on her way to claiming the world 400m title.

She smashed the championship record and nearly eclipsed a 40-year-old world record set by Marita Koch of the former East Germany.

Kenya's Emmanuel Wanyonyi won the men's track award after adding the 800m world title to his Olympic gold, with McLaughlin-Levrone taking the equivalent female award.

Australia's Nicola Olyslagers joined Duplantis in being named field athlete of the year after winning high jump titles indoors and outdoors.

Kenyan long-distance runner Sabastian Sawe took the men's out of stadium prize following his wins at the London and Berlin marathons.

Spanish racewalker Maria Perez won the women's equivalent as she defended her world titles in the 20km and 35km walks.

10-man Chelsea bring fight to Arsenal

LONDON, AFP

Mikel Merino rescued Arsenal as the Premier League leaders battled to a 1-1 draw against 10-man Chelsea in a bad-tempered London derby on Sunday.

Chelsea midfielder Moises Caicedo was sent off for a crude foul on Merino late in the first half at Stamford Bridge.

Despite Caicedo's dismissal, Trevoh Chalobah headed Chelsea into a second half lead, but Merino's leveller ensured Arsenal emerged unscathed from a bruising encounter between the title rivals.

Arsenal are five points clear of second-placed Manchester City, who beat Newcastle on Saturday, and sit six points above third-placed Chelsea.

When the dust had settled on a contest of relentless intensity, Arsenal were left to rue a missed opportunity to extend their lead over Chelsea in the title race, while the Blues were relieved to avoid a damaging defeat. Arsenal remain the favourites to win their first Premier League crown since 2004, but Chelsea's combative display suggested that they could emerge as the biggest threat to the Gunners' title aspirations.

Chelsea's Trevoh Chalobah celebrates after scoring the opening goal against Arsenal on Sunday night. REUTERS

Arsenal are unbeaten in 17 games in all competitions, winning 14 of those matches, while Chelsea have gone seven matches without losing in all competitions. Maresca had played down his young side's title hopes, but they went toe-to-toe with Arsenal, who were without injured centre-back William Saliba.

A thunderous first half included a rash of bookings as both teams tried to impose themselves. Bukayo Saka's stinging strike was saved by Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sanchez at his near post.

Enzo Fernandez tested Arsenal keeper David Raya from the edge of the area.

Result: Chelsea: 1 (Chalobah 48th) drew with Arsenal: 1 (Merino 59th).

Girona jolt for sloppy Real Madrid

GIRONA (SPAIN), AFP

Real Madrid were held to a third consecutive La Liga draw in a 1-1 tie at Girona on Sunday, allowing Barcelona to retain pole position.

Azzedine Ounahi fired the hosts into a surprise lead before half-time, with Kylian Mbappe earning Madrid a point from the penalty spot.

After Barcelona beat Alaves on Saturday to move top of the table, Madrid needed a victory at Girona to reclaim top spot but now sit second, a point behind the champions.

The draw increases the pressure on Madrid coach Xabi Alonso, after recent rumours suggesting his future is insecure in the Madrid dugout. Madrid travel to face Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday for a fourth consecutive league match on the road, a game moved because of the club's participation in the Spanish Super Cup in January.

The Spanish coach brought centre-backs Eder Militao and Antonio Rudiger back after injury and maintained Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior in attack alongside Kylian Mbappe, who scored four at Olympiacos in the Champions League in midweek.

Kylian Mbappe. AFP

Mbappe and Arda Guler fired off target for Madrid early on in a hotly-contested but scrappy clash, in front of a raucous home crowd.

A poor Trent Alexander-Arnold pass allowed Girona forward Vladyslav Vanat in but his pass was intercepted when he might have opted to shoot.

Results: Real Sociedad: 2 (Soler 61st, Barrenetxea 87th) lt to Villarreal: 3 (Perez 31st, Moleiro 57th, 90+5); Sevilla: 0 lt to Real Betis: 2 (Fornals 54th, Altimira 69th); Celta Vigo: 0 lt to Espanyol: 1 (Garcia 86th); Girona: 1 (Ounahi 45th) drew with Real Madrid: 1 (Mbappe 67th).

STATE SPORTS AWARDS

Ekalavya awards to be presented every year: CM Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that the Ekalavya awards will be presented every year instead of backlogging for two to three years.

'From now onwards, the Ekalavya awards will be given away every year. I have instructed the officials in this regard,' he said here on Monday while speaking at the presentation ceremony of Ekalavya, Lifetime Achievement, Karnataka Kreeda Ratna and Sports Patron awards for the years 2022 and 2023 at the Yavanika.

"If the awards are delayed, they will become outdated. Some people may even be retired," he said leaving the audience in splits.

Siddaramaiah reiterated that those winning gold in the Olympics will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 6 crore besides government jobs in Group 'A' and 'B' classes. Silver-winning athletes would get Rs 4 crore while bronze will fetch Rs 3 crore.

Target LA Olympics

He also claimed that as many as 60 athletes have been selected and are being trained for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics with each of them getting Rs 10 lakh every year for their training.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, MLC and KOA President K Govindaraj, MLA Rizwan Arshad, DYES Commissioner Chethan R, DYES Principal Secretary Naveen Raj Singh, KSA Vice-President Arun Machaya were present on the occasion.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah (fifth from left) presented the Ekalavya, Lifetime Achievement, Karnataka Sports Ratna and Karnataka Sports Patrons Awards for 2022 and 2023 in Bengaluru on Monday. Some of the athletes who received Ekalavya for 2022 are (from left) R Rakshith, Ningappa Gayennar, Pravallika V Kushtagi, L M Manoj, K Manikandan, Riddhima Veerendra Kumar and Yukti Rajendra. Other dignitaries on the stage are (from left) Arun Machayya, MLA Rizwan Arshad, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, MLC & KOA President K Govindaraj, CM's Political Secretary Nazir Ahmed, DYES Principal Secretary Naveen Raj Singh. DH PHOTO

The 2022 and 2023 award cycles reflected a broad spread of sporting disciplines, with both editions of the Ekalavya Awards honouring 16 athletes each across 15 different sports.

Cycling, basketball, and para-sport categories featured prominently across the two years, while disciplines such as athletics, wrestling, shooting and swimming maintained consistent representation.

Ekalavya Awardees - 2022: Priya H Mohan (Athletics), Mithun Manjunath (Badminton), Pratyanush Tomar, Sampath V Pasmel (Cycling), Mohammad Rahil (Hockey), Dhanalakshmi (Kayaking and Canoeing), Aditi Ashok (Golf), SD Prajwal Dev (Tennis), Yukti Rajendra (Shooting), Ridhima Virendrakumar (Swimming), Manikandan K (Paraclimbing), LM Manoj (Volleyball), Pravalika V Kushtagi (Taekwondo), Ningappa P Genennavara (Wrestling), Rakshita R (Para Athletics).

2023: Nihal Joel (Athletics), K Sai Prateek, R Sanjana (Basketball), Anupama Guleda (Cycling), Naidile B (Fencing), Ujjwal Naidu (Gymnastics), B Aabharana Sudev (Hockey), Dadapeer (Kayaking/Canoeing), Divya TS (Shooting), Anish S Gowda (Swimming), Priyanka S (Volleyball), Aishwarya P Karigara (Wrestling), Usha BN (Weightlifting), Sridhar Nagappa Malgi (Para Swimming), Ammu Mohan (Para Badminton). (The award includes Rs 4 lakh cash, Eklavya statue and certificate).

Lifetime Achievement for Coaching - 2022: BN Sudhakar (Badminton), R Rajan (Basketball), Krishna (Football), Kabaddi (Eshwara Angadi), Umesh Kalaghatagi (Swimming). **2023**: Rahul B (Para Athletics), HN Krishnamurthy (Kabaddi), K Satyanarayan (Basketball), HB Ravish (Hockey). (Rs 3 lakh cash, statue, certificate of appreciation.

Karnataka Kreeda Ratna - 2022: Divya MS (Ball Badminton), Bhaskara Devadiga (Kambala), Rayappa Dhareppa Abbunavara (Sangrani Stone Lifting), Chaitra B (Kokko), Vithal Meti (Kabaddi), Shankarappa K (Mallakamba), Gopavva Manjunath Khodki (Wrestling), Mohammed Feroze Sheikh (Yoga).

2023: Gautam MK (Kokko), Sunil B. Padatare (Wrestling), Vinayak M Kongi (Yoga), Meghana HM (Ball Badminton), Atmiya MB (Kabaddi), Manjula Hanamant Hulagannavara (Mallakamba). (Rs 2 lakh cash, statue and citation).

Sports Patron Award - 2023: Seshadripuram Education Foundation, Bangalore. (Rs 10 lakh cash, testimonial).

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division,
Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanpura,
Bangalore–560092

No.: BNCC/EE/SD/Advisement/01/2025-26 Date: 01.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

Application for Engagement of Qualified Professionals for the Urban Design Cell at the Bengaluru North City Corporation.

The Bengaluru North City Corporation invites applications for the engagement of Qualified Professionals for the Urban Design Cell for period of one year extendable for another one year, subjected to periodic performance. These positions aim to strengthen on-going initiatives in Urban Development and Planning within the region. Eligible candidates are request to fill the details in this https://bbmp.gov.in/urban-design and upload relevant documents to support their application.

The available positions are:

1) Urban Planner - Fellow/Consultants - 1 No.
2) Urban Designer - Fellow/Consultants - 1 No.
3) Urban Transport Planning Expert - Fellow/Consultant - 1 No.

For more information regarding the role, please read the document: **Urban Design Cell (https://bbmp.gov.in/urban-design)**

Time Schedule/Calender of events: (1) Start Date for submission of application form: **02.12.2025. (2)** Last Date for submission of application form: **15.12.2025.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಸಂ:ಕಾಪಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿ/ದಾ/ಕಿ.ಇಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26/1862
ದಿನಾಂಕ:–01.12.2025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

("ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್" ಮೂಲಕ)

ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇಲಾಖಾ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಏಕ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ ನಮೂನೆ–2 ಮತ್ತು 3ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:05 (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 16332, 16335, 19528, 21170 & 21171) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.29.64 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ 82.49 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತವೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01/12/2025 ರಿಂದ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10/12/2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08192–250156 ಅಥವಾ www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಪಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/519/
ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ
ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಲೋಇ:ಬಾವಿ:ಟಿಬಿ:ಕೆಡಬ್ಲು:2025–26/3300 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–12–2025

–: ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ:–

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ ಕೆ/ಡಬ್ಲೂ–1,2,3,4 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ KPPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಒಟ್ಟು 19 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವರ್ಕ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ:27975,28282,27823,21615ಕಾಲ್–2, 28646,28644, 28864, 28841, 27985, 28860, 28944, 28762, 28023
SC: 28948, 28843. ST: 28825 CAT - II(A): 28934, 28925, 28842

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.300.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.7.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ) ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್: 20–12–2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಅ) ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:22–12–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5–30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಬ) ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–12–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4–00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಕ) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:24–12–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಡ) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:26–12–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-421/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/2025-26/2247 Date: 29.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under 5054-grant for 1 work Improvements of Road & Brdiges from Hirehalli to Gowrasamudra road Chinage from 5.20km to 8.00km in Challakere Taluk, Chitradurga District(Indent No:18120)Call-2 for Rs:200.00 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as dates below:-

(1) Last Date for information any quarries Date: 15.12.2025 : Time : 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date: 16.12.2025 : Time : 16.00 **(3)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date: 17.12.2025 : Time : 16.01 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date: 18.12.2025 : Time : 16.02

Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.503:DIPR/CTA/
KSMCA/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

Lowly gets Deccan off a rousing start

BENGALURU, DHNS: LT Lowly pumped in four goals as FC Deccan got their BDFA A Division League Championship on a rousing note, hammering DYES FC 6-1 at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

Aimso Chithung fired Deccan ahead in the fifth minute before goals in the 22nd and 24th minutes from Lowly gave them a 3-0 advantage.

Santhosh Tamata reduced the deficit for DYES with a 28th-minute strike but Deccan ended the first half on a high, Lowly completing his hat-trick in the 42nd minute and Aimso finding the back of the net if the first minute of injury time.

Deccan, leading 5-1, took it easy in the second half but still were able to score one more time, Lowly netting in the 88th minute.

Results: Bangalore Eagles FC: 3 (Shivakumar R 21st, Scigoulen Kipgen 65th, Sidharadh V Suresh 72nd) bt Real Chikmagalur: 1 (Shivakumar N 85th); FC Deccan: 6 (Aimso Chithung 5th, 45+1, LT Lowly 22nd, 24th, 42nd, 88th) bt DYES FC: 1 (Santhosh Tamata 28th); Technico FF: 4 (Thangjalen Gute 27th, AM Muhammed Dilshad 37th, Sansam Lenin Meitei 57th, Aaron Telaspher Rodriguez - 90+3rd) bt Jawahar Union FC: 0.

Pratitee sparkles at Asian meet

BENGALURU, DHNS: Pratitee Bordoloi of Bengaluru produced a standout performance at the 27th Asian Youth Chess Championships in Bangkok, winning silver medals in Classical, Rapid and Blitz in the U-12 Girls category.

She scored 7.5-9, 5.5-7 and 7-9 respectively, becoming one of only two Indians to medal across all three formats among players from more than 20 Asian federations. Her efforts also contributed to India's team silver in each format. Fellow Karnataka player Aadya Gowda finished fifth in Classical and secured a bronze in Blitz after a strong comeback.

Ashwa Kanchenjunga for MRC Cup

DELHI SELECTIONS

Ashwa Kanchenjunga, from the stables of S Nawab and to be ridden by K Nazil, is fancied to win the Mysore Race Club Cup, the feature event of the Delhi races on Tuesday. First race starts at 2.00 pm

1. Bird Valley Plate - 1200M: Poly Czar 1, Quality Assurance 2, Real Boss 3.
2. Coorg Plate (Div-I) - 1200M: Insta Millionaire 1, Little More 2, Master Stoute 3.
3. Coorg Plate (Div-II) - 1200M: Burning Desire 1, Girl Power 2, Ustaad Ji 3.
4. Mysore Palace Plate - 1200M: Ashwa Sultan 1, Tequila 2, Big Tymer 3.
5. Mysore Race Club Cup - 1100M: Ashwa Kanchenjunga 1, Lodge Keeper 2, Amazing A One 3.
6. Chamundi Hill Plate - 1000M: Royal Baby 1, Juggaad 2, Lucky Lips 3.
Day's best: Rubicon. **Jackpot**: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble**: 4, 5 & 6.

CRICKET ODI SERIES

Questions over Rohit & Kohli SHOULD BE SET ASIDE

The veteran duo's recent performances prove their relevance beyond any doubt

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Virat Kohli gave an angry stare, apparently in the direction of the Indian dressing room, as Rohit Sharma brought up his 60th ODI half-century in the first match against South Africa in Ranchi on Sunday. Rohit went a notch further when he celebrated Kohli's record-extending 52nd ODI century by firing off his signature Hindi expletives -- phrases that can convey various meanings depending on the context.

Together, their reactions appeared to send a message to those who continue to place the experienced pair under scrutiny, questioning whether they can still justify their place in the ODI side after retiring from the other two formats.

The two seniors, who have long shared little more than a professional relationship as teammates, now seem to have found genuine support in each other. In a set-up where certain vibes can make them feel different, if not unwelcome, they may have organically formed a meaningful bond.

Rohit showed his ability tee-off from the start is as intact as ever while Kohli proved his proficiency to switch gears remains undiminished by advancing years.

The former captains' vintage performances come amid reports of a meeting involving senior BCCI officials, the head coach, and the chief selector to discuss their future; specifically, whether they can stay relevant through to the 2027 World Cup in South Africa. At 37 and 38 respectively, Kohli and Rohit are at the twilight of their respective careers.

With ODI cricket now their only international format, prolonged absences from competition add to the concerns. The management's caution regarding their durability over the next two years is reasonable, given that they occupy crucial batting positions -- No. 1 and No. 3 -- and extended uncertainty could leave India with an unsettled combination heading into a major ICC event.

Their recent performances, however, should put speculation about their ODI future to rest for the foreseeable future. Taking their last four ODI appearances into account, Rohit has scored 0, 73, 121* and 57, while Kohli has produced 0, 0, 74* and 135. Rohit the aggressor and Kohli the accumulator, a partnership that has endured for years and delivered consistently throughout their illustrious careers, have dispelled any lingering doubts about their continued value to the team.

India's assistant coach Sitanshu Kotak echoed similar sentiments in his post-match comments.

"I really don't know why actually we need to look at all this," Kotak said after India completed a 17-run win to take 1-0 lead in the three-match series. "He's (Kohli) batting so well. Why do we need to talk about his future? The way he's performing, the way his fitness is... There are no questions about anything."

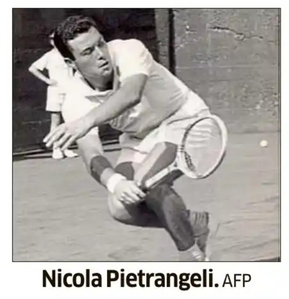
Kotak, who is also the batting coach, emphasised that the team management was not thinking as far ahead as the 2027 World Cup and there were no discussions around Rohit and Kohli.

"I feel these things (future talks) shouldn't happen. They are brilliant, they are performing, and they are contributing to the team. For us, once the team comes and practice starts, we just enjoy it. I don't even think we are talking about the 2027 World Cup."

Kotak's statements aren't far from reality for the team's primary focus will be the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka next February. Before that tournament begins, India have five ODI fixtures on the calendar: two against South Africa and three against New Zealand. They will also play another three 50-over matches against England in July.

For now, any major selection debates about Rohit and Kohli will have to be put on hold, particularly after the performances delivered by two of India's greatest ODI players in recent innings. They have once again proven they remain among the best, and with their drive and professionalism, there is no reason to think they are the square pegs trying to fit into round holes.

Virat Kohli (left) and Rohit Sharma during the first ODI against South Africa in Ranchi on Sunday. PTI



Nicola Pietrangeli. AFP

Cultural phenomenon who added style to tennis

ROME, REUTERS: During a break in the French Open final, in 1960, Nicola Pietrangeli took his shoes off in the locker room. His socks were red with blood.

In the first three sets, Chile's Luis Ayala had been tormenting Pietrangeli with drop shots and lobs, forcing the Italian tennis player to sprint forward and back until the skin peeled off his feet.

He played the rest of the gruelling match on raw flesh. Still, he danced across the court with the elegance of a matador — and claimed his second Roland Garros crown.

His prize money: $150, he later recalled.

Before the sport began to turn professional in 1968, and long before the vast financial rewards of modern tennis, Pietrangeli was a master on clay — and Italy's greatest player.

Pietrangeli, 92, wasn't just the first Italian to win a Grand Slam singles title. He was also a cultural phenomenon.

He brought tennis into the national consciousness at a time when it was still seen as a sport for the elite.

Avani, Aditi finish tied 11th

MALAGA (SPAIN), PTI: Indian golfers Avani Prashanth and Aditi Ashok carded 1-under 71 each to finish tied 11th at the season-ending Andalucía Costa del Sol Open de Espana here.

Among the other Indians Hitaashee Bakshi (69) was T-43, Pranavi Urs (73) was T-47 and Diksha Dagar (75) was T-71.

France's Nastasia Nadaud stormed to victory, firing a 66 (-6) to win the event by four shots on the Ladies European Tour (LET).

Avani and Aditi played in the same group on the final day and carded 71 each. Avani had four birdies against three bogeys and Aditi had three birdies against two bogeys. Both of them bogeyed the 18th and final hole or else would have got into top-10.

Gill's fitness to be assessed at CoE, Hardik cleared for SMAT

NEW DELHI, PTI

India's T20I vice-captain Shubman Gill will be reporting at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Monday for his mandatory fitness assessment protocols, which will determine his return to action for the upcoming five-match series against South Africa starting December 9.

Gill had sustained a neck injury while batting during the second day of the opening Test against South Africa in Kolkata and since then has missed the second Test and the ongoing ODI series.

Since the Indian T20I squad wouldn't have any surprises -- not even minor -- unless there are any injury issues, the selection committee headed by Ajit Agarkar will be waiting for Gill's fitness report from the Sports Science team at the COE.

Shubman Gill

"Gill was administered an injection and advised 21 days of rest and rehabilitation, which included specific exercises to strengthen the muscles of the injured area. Obviously, the sports science team would go through all his mandatory fitness tests before he starts the skills training.

"Nothing can be said unless the sports science team assesses his movements during skills training and whether he is having zero discomfort while batting," a BCCI source privy to the developments said on conditions of anonymity.

Hardik set for SMAT

Meanwhile, Hardik Pandya has got the clearance to return to the T20 format and will be playing his first match in nearly two-and-half months against Punjab in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

He is also supposed to play the December 4 game between Baroda and Gujarat with national selector Pragyan Ojha in attendance during both the games to check his overall fitness before the squad is announced. "From October 21 to November 30, Hardik didn't even move out of the CoE and completed his full rehab and 'Return To Play' protocols. As of now, he has been given the all clear -- to bat and bowl in T20Is," a source at the CoE said.

Williamson boost for NZ

CHRISTCHURCH, AFP: New Zealand batting talisman Kane Williamson returns to the Test arena for the first time in a year to bolster the hosts' line-up in the first Test against the West Indies in Christchurch, which begins Tuesday.

The 35-year-old sat out New Zealand's only other Tests this year -- a 2-0 series win in Zimbabwe in August -- but has a formidable Test record against the West Indies.

From seven home innings he averages 72.57 while over 10 innings in the West Indies the figure is an impressive 51.33.

One of the greatest batsmen of his generation, Williamson has a career average of 54.88 from 105 Tests, with 33 centuries.

He scored 156 against England in his last Test innings at Hamilton in December last year.

Under-fire Harendra resigns as women's head coach

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian women's hockey team chief coach Harendra Singh **(in pic)** on Monday resigned from the post with immediate effect citing "personal reasons".

Harendra, who had taken over the reins in April last year, led India to title triumph in the Asian Champions Trophy in Rajgir in November last year but under him the team also got demoted from the FIH Pro League after finishing last in the 2024-25 season.

"Coaching the Indian women's hockey team has been a privilege that has been a highlight of my career. Though personal reasons call me to step away, my heart remains with this extraordinary team and their ongoing success," said Harendra, who was the USA men's hockey team's tactician prior to becoming the Indian women's coach, said in a Hockey India statement.

"I will always cherish my journey with Hockey India and continue to support their efforts to take Indian hockey to the highest levels of achievement," he said.

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, while accepting the resignation, appreciated the commitment of Harendra, who guided India's junior men's team to the 2016 FIH Jr World Cup title in Lucknow.

According to sources, Dutch tactician Sjoerd Marijne, who was head coach of the Indian women's team that finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, could return as the chief coach. Marijne had resigned as head coach of the women's team in August 2021.

Karnataka sneak into knockouts

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka qualified for the pre-quarterfinals of the BCCI U-23 Women's T20 Trophy despite a five-wicket defeat to unbeaten Tamil Nadu in their final Group C match in Gurugram, Haryana on Monday.

Their progression was sealed after an already-eliminated Assam beat Uttar Pradesh by seven wickets, allowing Karnataka to edge ahead of UP on net run rate with both teams tied on 12 points. Karnataka, however, missed out on a direct chance to qualify for the quarterfinals, as a victory on the day may have made that possible.

After being put into bat first, Karnataka posted 110/6, built around Niki Prasad's 37 runs off 41 balls and Prerana GR's 31 off 38, while Iswarya Lakshmi claimed 3/14, troubling the batters. Tamil Nadu then chased down the target in 19.1 overs, led by NS Subhaharini's run-a-ball 32 and supported by C Sushanthika's 34-ball 25.

Karnataka will face Punjab in the pre-quarters in Ahmedabad on December 5.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 110/6 in 20 overs (Niki Prasad 37, Prerana GR 31; Iswarya Lakshmi R 3-14) lt to Tamil Nadu: 113/5 in 19.1 overs (NS Subhaharini 32, C Shushanthika 25).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st Test: New Zealand vs West Indies, Day 1 **(3:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1** and **FanCode**.

SMAT: Andhra Pradesh vs Railways, Bihar vs Maharashtra, Delhi vs Tripura **(all 11:00 am)**; Kerala vs Vidarbha, Hyderabad vs Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan vs Uttarakhand **(all 4:30 pm)** **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network** and **JioHotstar**.

3rd T20I: Ireland vs Bangladesh **(5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

FOOTBALL

EPL: Fulham vs Manchester City, Bournemouth vs Everton **(both 12:50 am)**; Newcastle United vs Tottenham **(1:35 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network** and **JioHotstar**.

La Liga: Rayo Vallecano vs Valencia **(1:30 am, Tuesday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

HOCKEY

Men's Jr World Cup: Spain vs Namibia **(11:00 am)**, England vs Malaysia **(1:15 pm)**, India vs Switzerland **(8:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1** and **JioHotstar**.

Women's Jr World Cup: Netherlands vs Chile **(5:15 am)**, England vs China **(7:45 pm)**, Australia vs Canada **(10:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2** and **JioHotstar**.

B Bhaskar (left) and Sean Davis won the State-ranking Senior Men's Billiards and Snooker tournaments at the KSBA respectively.

Veteran Bhaskar wins billiards title; Sean reigns in snooker

BENGALURU, DHNS: Veteran cueist B Bhaskar, with a highest break of 130, banked IH Manudev 150-27, 150-20, 151-33, 151 (130)-51 to win the State-ranking Senior Men's Billiards Tournament here at the Karnataka State Billiards Association in Bengaluru on Monday.

ML Lakshman defeated Sasha Sambi to finish third.

In the snooker final, Sean Davis was stretched in an eight-frame marathon before emerging a 61-42, 62-11, 34-68, 31-71, 76-28, 9-80, 66-39, 61-30 winner.

Results: Billiards final: B Bhaskar bt IH Manudev 4-0 (150-27, 150-20, 151-33, 151 (130)-51).
Final standings: B Bhaskar 1; IH Manudev 2; ML Lakshman 3; Sasha Sambi 4; Arjun Mehta 5; Kshitij Garg 6; Mayank Karthik 7; Sean Davis 8.
Snooker final: Sean Davis bt Sheikh Najeeb 5-3 (61-42, 62-11, 34-68, 31-71, 76-28, 9-80, 66-39, 61-30).
3rd & 4th placings: Parthiban S bt MS Arun 3-1 (10-86, 88-52, 74-64, 49-25); **5th & 8th**: BC Karthik bt Rohit Ravindran 3-2 (72-51, 48-76, 67-43, 9-65, 76-46); IH Manudev bt Adil Sherazi 3-1 (71-21, 02-59, 64-45, 92-0); Adil bt Rohit 3-1 (68-48, 67-39, 10-62, 75-44); Karthik bt Manudev 3-1 (97-46, 52-63, 68-43, 72-33).
Final placings: Sean Davis1; Sheikh Najeeb 2; Parthiban S 3; MS Arun 4; BC Karthik 5; IH Manudev 6; Adil Sherazi 7; Rohit Ravindran 8.

Max revels in McLaren mistakes

DOHA, REUTERS

Formula One champion Max Verstappen revelled in McLaren's strategy horror show at the Qatar Grand Prix on Sunday as the Red Bull driver won again, days after the team's boss compared him to a movie monster who keeps on coming back.

"He can call me Chucky," grinned the Dutchman after winning under the Lusail floodlights from third place on the grid.

McLaren, who had both cars disqualified in Las Vegas a week earlier while Verstappen won, had swept the front row with Oscar Piastri on pole and championship leader Lando Norris -- seeking to clinch the title -- alongside the Australian.

Then it all went wrong again for the champions.

Verstappen passed Norris at the start and pitted from second on lap seven when the safety car was deployed, while the McLarens stayed out and paid the price -- Piastri ending up second and Norris fourth.

That rocketed Verstappen up to second in the championship, 12 points behind Norris with only the Abu Dhabi finale remaining and four ahead of Piastri. At the end of August the Dutch driver had been 104 points off Piastri's lead.

"I didn't expect to win today, that's for sure," Verstappen told Sky Sports television.

"Looking at pure pace, we were not on the same level as McLaren, but we made the right call, as most of the grid did, in boxing under the safety car.

"That almost gives you a free pit stop and that made the race for me. For sure, that call at the pit stop made me win the race today."

Red Bull reinforced that feeling by sending Hannah Schmitz, the team's principal strategy engineer, up to the podium to share Verstappen's fizzy celebrations under the floodlights.

Verstappen said he did not think McLaren had messed up by trying to be fair to both drivers, not wanting to disadvantage one over the other in the title battle if they had double-stacked them at a pitstop, but just made a wrong call.

"It was about missing the whole pit stop opportunity," he said. "On pure pace they are faster, but as it showed today again anything is possible."

McLaren chief executive Zak Brown had likened Verstappen earlier in the week to "that guy in a horror movie, that right as you think he's not coming back, he's back."

Vegas was a blow and Sunday was a shock for McLaren, who have already won the constructors' crown for a second year in a row.

Next weekend will truly be a nightmare if Verstappen denies them a same-season title double for the first time since Mika Hakkinen in 1998.

Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen will fancy his chances of winning the title at season's finale in Abu Dhabi next week after clinching the penultimate race in Doha. AFP

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